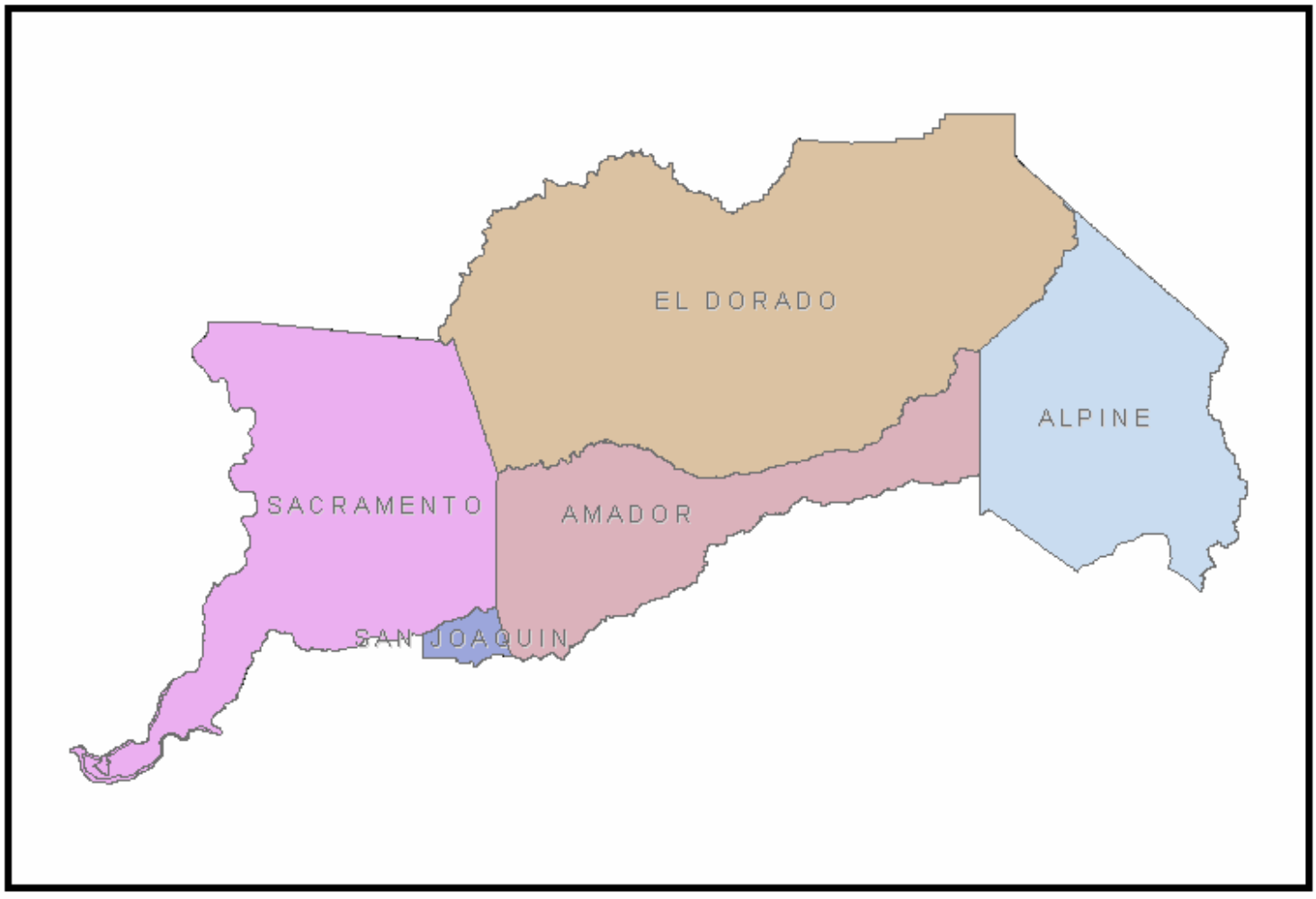
Amador El Dorado Unit
2003
Fire Management Plan



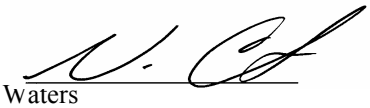
Amador El Dorado Unit
Fire Management Plan
2003

Approved by:

Bill Holmes
Unit Chief
Amador El Dorado Unit

Prepared by:

Garrett Simmons
Fire Captain Specialist
Pre-Fire Engineer



Chris Waters
Forester I
VMP Coordinator

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Fire Plan Concept and Process

The State Board of Forestry (BOF) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) have drafted a comprehensive update of the fire plan for wildland fire protection in California. The planning process defines a level of service measurement, considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

Goal and Objectives

The overall goal is to reduce the total cost and loss from wildland fires in California by protecting assets at risk through focused prefire management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success.

The California Fire Plan has five strategic objectives:

1. To create wildfire protection zones that reduces risk to citizens and firefighters.

2. To assess all wildland, not just the state responsibility areas. The analysis will include all wildland fire service providers' federal, state, local government and private. The analysis will identify high risk, high value areas, and develop information on, and determine who is responsible, who is responding, and who is paying for wildland fire emergencies.

3. To identify and analyze key policy issues and develop recommendations for changes in public policy. Analysis will include alternatives to reduce total cost and losses by increasing fire protection system effectiveness.

4. To have a strong fiscal policy focus and monitor the wildland fire protection system in fiscal terms. This will include all public and private expenditures and economic losses.

5. To translate the analysis into public policy.

Fire Plan Framework

Five major components will form the basis of an ongoing planning process to monitor and assess California's wildland fire environment:

1. Wildfire protection zones. A key product of this Fire Plan is the development of wildfire safety zones to reduce citizen and firefighter risks from future large wildfires.

2. Initial attack success. The fire plan defines an assessment process for measuring the level of service provided by the fire protection system for wildland fire. This measure can be used to assess the department's ability to provide an equal level of protection to lands of similar types, as required by Public Resources Code (PCR 4130.) This measurement is the percentage of fires that are successfully controlled before unacceptable costs are incurred. Knowledge of the level of service will help define the risk to wildfire damage faced by both public and private assets in the wildland.

3. Assets protected. The plan will establish a methodology for defining the assets protected, and their degree of risk from wildfire. The assets addressed in the plan are citizen and firefighter safety, watersheds and water, timber, wildlife habitat (including rare and endangered species), unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic), recreation, range, structures, and air quality. Stakeholders (national, state, local and private agencies, interest groups etc.) will be defined for each asset at risk. The assessment will define the areas where assets are at risk from wildfire, enabling fire service managers and stakeholders to set priorities for prefire management project work.

4. Prefire management. This aspect focuses on system analysis methods that assess alternatives to protect assets from unacceptable risk of wildland fire damage. Projects include a combination of fuels reduction, ignition management, fire-safe engineering activities, and forest health to protect public and private assets. The priority for projects will be based on the asset owners and other stakeholders' input and support. Prefire management prescriptions designed to protect these assets will also identify who benefits and who should share in the project cost.

5. Fiscal framework. The BOF and CDF are developing a fiscal framework for assessing and monitoring annual and long-term changes in California's wildland fire protection systems. State, local and federal wildland fire protection agencies, along with the private sector, have evolved into an interdependent system of prefire and suppression forces. As a result, changes to the budgeted levels of services of any of the entities directly

affect the others and the services delivered to the public. Monitoring system changes through this fiscal framework will allow the BOF and CDF to address public policy issues that maximize the efficiency of local, state and federal firefighting resources.

These are Fire Plan framework applications:

- Identify for state, federal, and local officials and for the public, those areas of concentrated assets and high risk.

- Allow CDF to create a more efficient fire protection system focused on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas.

- Give citizens an opportunity to identify public and private assets to design and carry out projects to protect those assets.

- Identify, before fires start, where cost-effective prefire management investments can be made to reduce taxpayer cost and citizen losses from wildfires.

- Encourage an integrated intergovernmental approach to reducing cost and loss.

- Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future cost and loss from wildfires.

Amador-El Dorado Unit Description

Geographic

The Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) is located in the North Central Sierras. It includes the counties of Amador, El Dorado, Alpine and portions of Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties. The entire Unit encompasses 2,667,840 acres. Landowners of both SRA and non-SRA lands within the Unit include: private 1,503,052 acres; United States Forest Service (USFS) 584,550 acres; Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – 32,921 acres; Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) 4,432 acres; US Military 9,892 acres; Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 700 acres; State of California 24,018 acres. Currently within Amador El Dorado Unit direct protection area (DPA) we serve 903,803 acres.

Within the Unit there are two all year trans-Sierra highways, State Highway 50 in El Dorado County, and State Highway 88 running through Amador County. Crossing the Unit from north to south is historic State Highway 49, on the west side of the Sierras and State Highway 89 in the Lake Tahoe Basin on the east side of the Sierra Crest. Most of the major population growth in the area has historically been along the two east-west highways, but with the influx of more high-tech industry into the Sacramento area, there is now a tendency to expand north and south from the major population centers, expanding the area of urban interface into the wildland.

The CDF's (DPA) ranges from Sacramento and San Joaquin counties to well above the 4,500-foot elevation, in Amador and El Dorado Counties. The Unit encompasses all or part of three major watersheds, the Middle and South Forks of the American, the North Fork of the Mokelumne, and all forks the Cosumnes Rivers. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize the resources of these rivers and their tributaries for generation of hydroelectric power, acquisition of drinking and irrigation water. All of these rivers run into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and eventually into San Francisco Bay.

Socioeconomic

The approximate resident population within Amador El Dorado Units DPA is 150,616. In El Dorado County the highest population densities are found along the Highway 50 corridor, from El Dorado Hills to Pollock. The areas of Pleasant Valley and State Highway 49 south of the community of El Dorado are experiencing a very rapid population growth. In Amador County, the population densities are greatest along the State Highway 88 corridor from Jackson to the Pioneer area.

A significant seasonal population increase occurs within the Unit in mid-spring with the start of the logging season and continues to gradual increases due to the influx of seasonal workers seeking employment during the apple and grape harvest in the late fall. With the easy access to the Lake Tahoe Basin and the many other recreational areas and summer homes, tourism and recreation are also major factors that influence the population of the Unit during fire season. Even though most of these areas are located within the El Dorado National Forest, visitors must transit through the units DPA areas to reach them. Since the majority of the fires are man caused, this increase in population usually results in more wildland fire ignitions.

The major industries that support the local economy includes timber, tourism, recreation, wine and fruit production, construction, service oriented businesses and to a lesser extent at this time, light industry. All of these industries have, at one time or another, have been affected by wildfires in the Unit. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost both directly and indirectly due to wildfires. It has been estimated that a closure of Highway 50 during the summer months, would result in a loss of between 1.5 and 2 million dollars a day in the South Lake Tahoe Basin (including Nevada interests). Additionally, an estimated $150,000 would be lost to the west slope communities due to a closure of Highway 50 (Highway 50 corridor from the west county line to Echo summit).

CDF Facilities and Resources

The Amador-El Dorado Unit manages eight CDF fire stations, the Cameron Park and Pioneer schedule "A" program, two conservation camps, two lookouts and three Amador Plan stations (during winter months) for the Amador County Fire Protection District. During the peak fire season CDF staffs 13 State funded engines, two Cameron Park ALS engines with one ALS Medic Unit, one Pioneer ALS engines, and two bulldozers. CDF and the El Dorado NF operate a joint agency command center located at CDF's Camino Headquarters. In addition to dispatching all CDF and El Dorado NF emergency incidents, this center provides emergency dispatch services to local fire agencies in Amador and El Dorado Counties. In El Dorado County, this service includes all west-slope fire agencies and medic units and in Amador County, all fire agencies including the incorporated cities of Jackson, Sutter Creek, Ione, Amador City and Plymouth.

Fire Protection Responsibilities

CDF provides direct wildland fire protection on 903,803 acres of the total 2.6 million acres in the Unit. Included in the area protected by CDF are lands owned by the USFS (29,188 acres); Bureau of Indian Affairs (700 acres); Bureau of Land Management (32,921 acres); and Bureau of Reclamation (4,432 acres).

Conversely, the United States Forest Service (USFS) provides direct wildland fire protection to 163,259 acres of private ownership lands within the El Dorado NF and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit of the USDA Forest Service. Although county and local government fire departments do not have a statutory wildland fire protection responsibility, they do respond to wildland fires with their equipment to assist CDF and USFS resources.

Stakeholder Process

The Amador-El Dorado Unit has many stakeholders that are involved in the fire plan process. Government, industry, special interest groups and private individuals have been listed as potential stakeholders and have been informed that a new fire plan is being prepared for the Unit. Working cooperatively with these agencies, companies, groups and individuals to develop and implement project is an important part of the fire plan process. Stakeholders also play an important part in validating fire plan data in their particular areas of expertise.

The Amador and El Dorado Fire Safe Councils are being used to address fire plan issues with stakeholders. The fire safe councils will be used as a forum to identify new stakeholders. The Key Contact Program will be used to identify those stakeholders that wish to become involved in the fire plan process. (See Prefire Division for more information on the Fires Safe Councils.)

Specific stakeholders include: Representatives from federal, state and local government agencies; local fire departments; utility companies; environmental groups; Native American groups; and other groups of individuals that represent special interest.

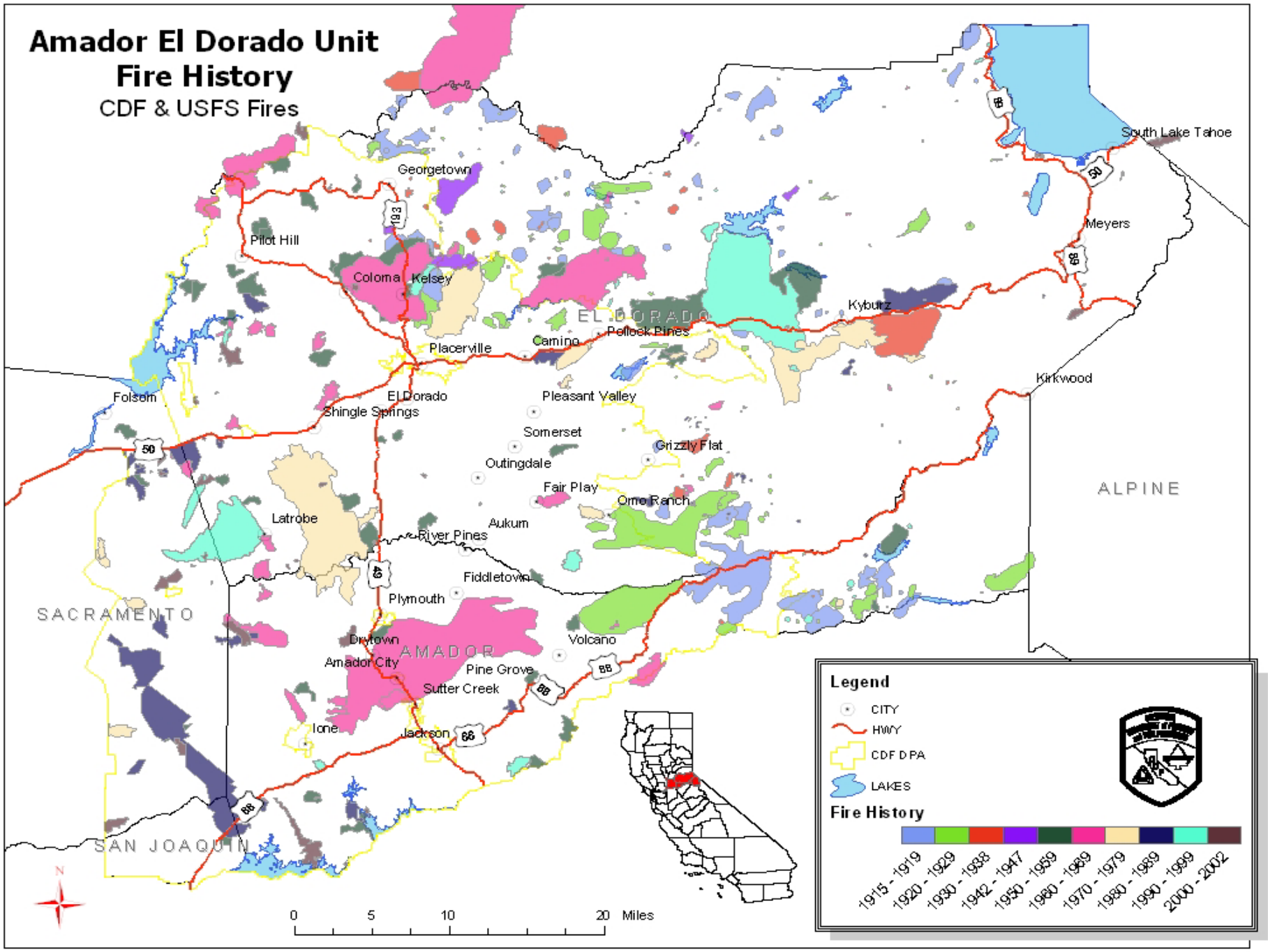
Fire Environment

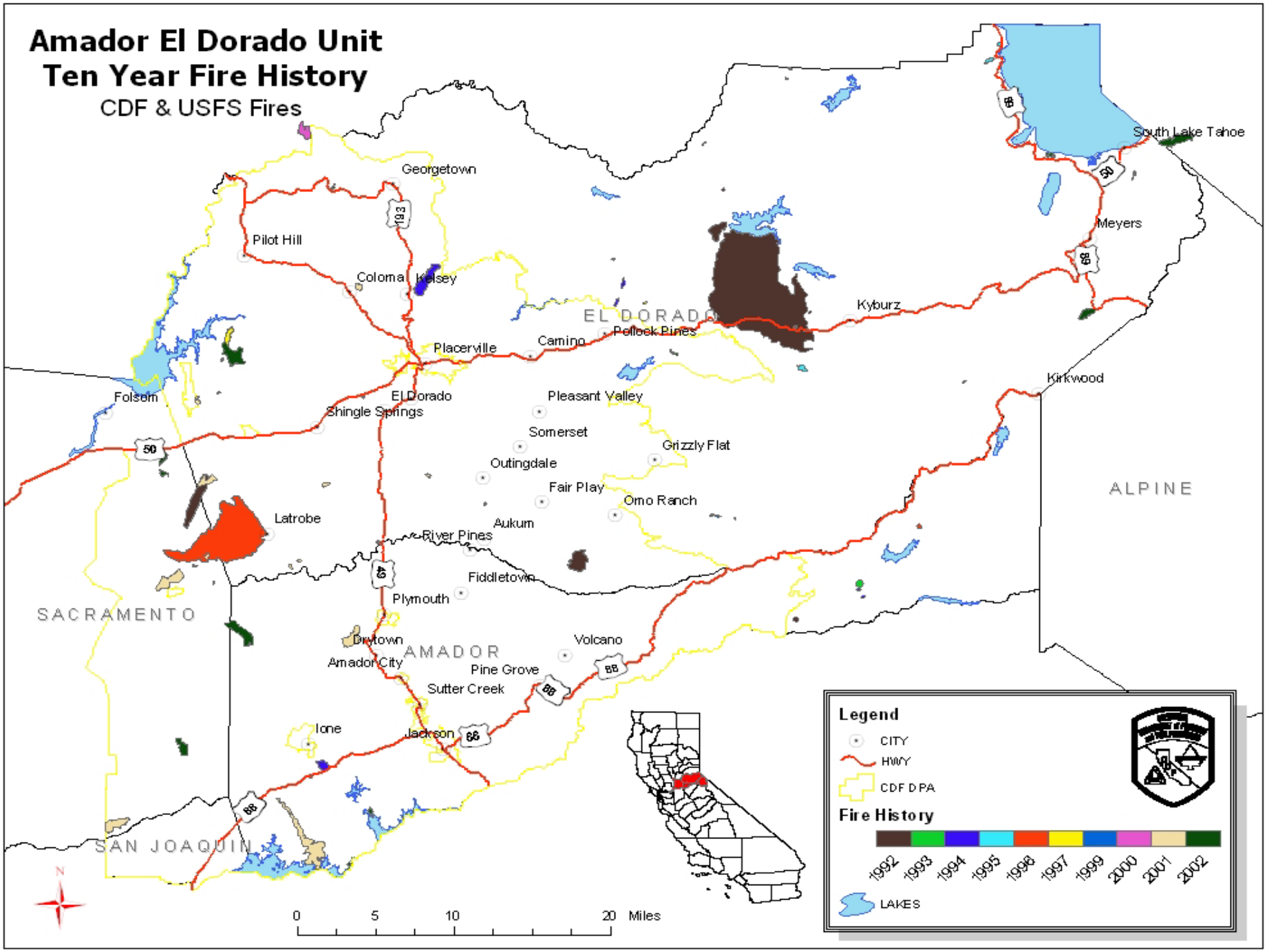
The fire environment in the Amador-El Dorado Unit is conducive to large destructive wildfires as shown by the large fire history map. Over 59% of the DPA lands are covered with high hazard fuels (brush and timber). The Unit contains many steep, rugged river canyons that limit accessibility except on foot. Fighting fires with bulldozers is difficult, if not impossible in some locations in the unit.

Fire History

Wildfire history is a significant factor of the pre-fire management planning process. The fire plan assessment framework incorporates detailed information for determining the most beneficial locations for pre-fire management projects, an idea of the level of service on State Responsibility Area (SRA)[1] for the unit and various assets at risk information. Fire history is a piece of the puzzle that allows unit personnel to learn from our past and to prepare for future fire behavior. Having knowledge of fire history provides an account of historic fire travel in a particular area. With knowledge of historic fire spread, fire suppression forces are better equipped to predict fire spread potentials. Identifying where the largest and most damaging fires have occurred is a necessary step in preparing for future wildfire. The most significant aspect of fire history in Amador El Dorado Unit is that personnel are able to compare the relationship between identified assets at risk and the historic burning patterns of wildfire which allows for a more informed decision making processes when preparing fire planning documents and procedures.
Map 1 on the following page shows the Unit's fire history from 1915 to 2002. Map 2 contains the fire history for the pervious ten years. Each map only display fires of 300 acres or more and represent significant fire patterns.

[1] State Responsibility Area refers to those lands defined by statue where the fiscal and legal responsibility for protection is given to CDF. SRA differs from DPA in that DPA may contain other lands that CDF has contractually agreed to protect. These are usually federal lands where the federal government is fiscally and legally the protection agency but CDF resources are better positioned to provide protection. Federal agencies provide direct protection to SRA lands where the situation is reversed.


Amador El Dorado Unit
Fire History
CDF & USFS Fires
South Lake Tahoe
Georgetown
Meyers
Pilot Hill
Coloma
Kelsey
Kyburz
EL DORADO
Pollock Pines
Placerville
Camino
Kirkwood
Folsom
El Dorado
Shingle Springs
Pleasant Valley
Somerset
Grizzly Flat
Outingdale
Fair Play
Omo Ranch
ALPINE
Latrobe
Aukum
River Pines
Fiddletown
Plymouth
SACRAMENTO
Drytown
AMADOR
Volcano
Amador City
Pine Grove
Sutter Creek
Ione
Jackson
SAN JOAQUIN
Legend
CITY
HWY
CDF DPA
LAKES
Fire History
1915 - 1919
1920 - 1929
1930 - 1938
1942 - 1947
1950 - 1959
1960 - 1969
1970 - 1979
1980 - 1989
1990 - 1999
2000 - 2002
0
5
10
20
Miles
N


Amador El Dorado Unit
Ten Year Fire History
CDF & USFS Fires
Georgetown
Pilot Hill
Coloma
Kelsey
Placerville
Camino
Pollock Pines
Kyburz
South Lake Tahoe
Meyers
Kirkwood
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Ione
Jackson
EL DORADO
ALPINE
SACRAMENTO
AMADOR
SAN JOAQUIN
Legend
CITY
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CDF DPA
Fire History
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2002
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Fuels, Weather, Level of Service & Assets at Risk

As part of the fire plan process, the fuels, assets at risk, past fire weather history, and the level of service (LOS) that CDF provides to the public will be analyzed. Data for these four components have been compiled by staff in CDF's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) in Sacramento. The initial fire plan analysis will only be performed on CDF DPA lands. From this point on in this document, the acronym DPA will refer to CDF DPA, unless otherwise noted. Through a cooperative planning effort with other agencies that are responsible for wildland fire protection on non DPA land, CDF would like to include all lands in the Unit in future data analysis.

To arrive at a common land area unit to assemble this data, US Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle maps were divided by a 9x9 grid, forming 81 equal area blocks of land. Each block contains approximately 450 acres and has been named a quad 81st. The data for the entire Unit has been compiled down to the quad 81st.

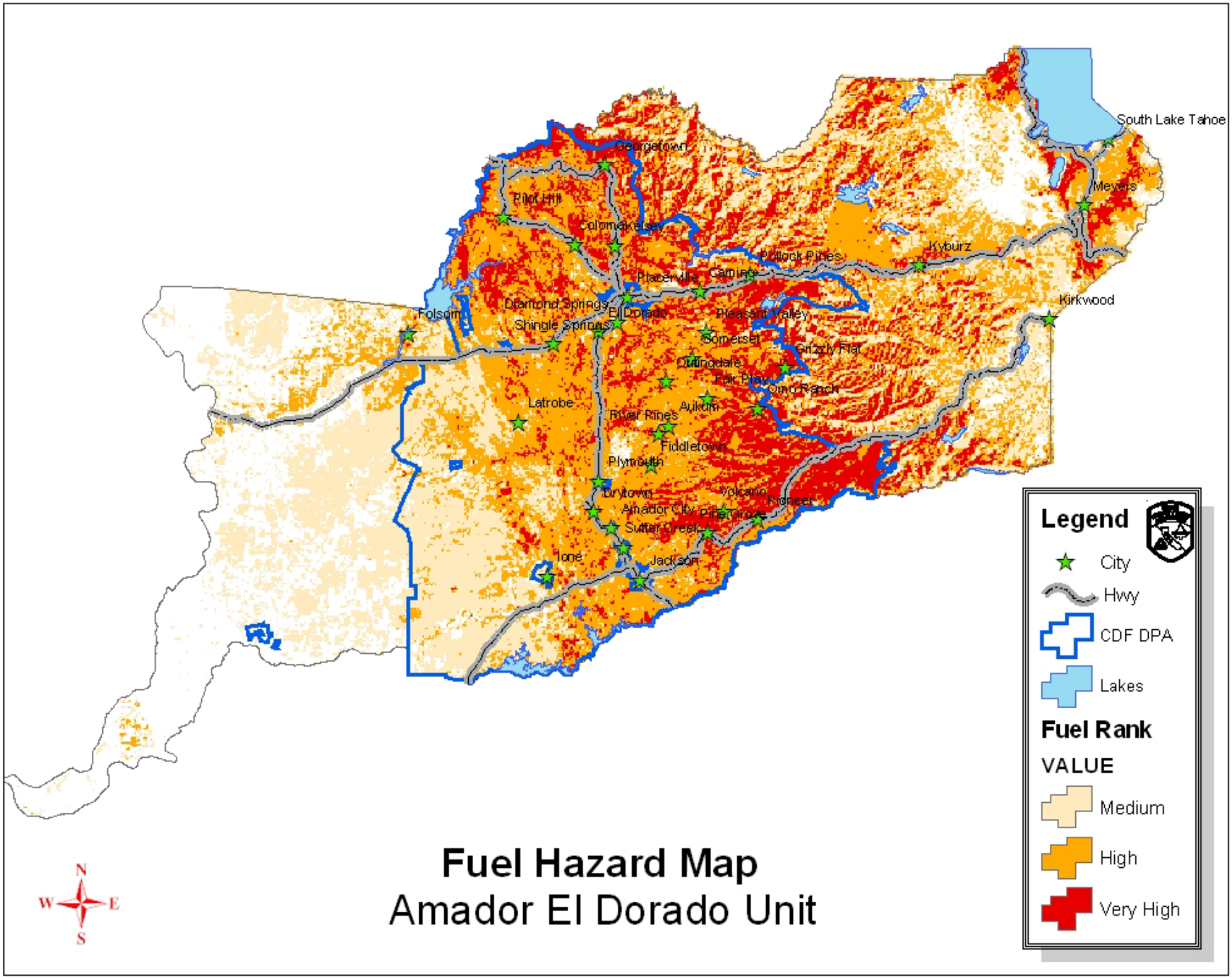
Fuels are the burnable vegetation that exists within the Unit. Assets at risk refer to anything that has the potential to be burned or damaged when a wildfire burns in an area. Seventeen assets have been identified and ranked as to their risk from wildfire. The past fire weather history will be analyzed and the percentage of days, during the fire season, that severe fire weather is experienced by each quad 81st will be calculated. The level of service is a measure of how successful CDF is at controlling fires during the initial attack stages of a fire. The number of successful initial attacks divided by the number of initial attacks will equal the level of service for the time period analyzed.

Fuels

Fuels are a major component of the fire planning process. Vegetation within the Unit varies widely and includes grassland, oak woodland, brush, mixed conifer, and true fir. A detail examination of fuels and fire history using Geographical Information System (GIS) data layers and field validation produce a ranking of these fuels. This ranking represents the relative fire hazard posed by each of these fuels within each 81st quad.

The hazardous fuels ranking system is based on estimates of potential fire behavior associated with the particular fuel type; and as such, have a direct relationship to the characteristic fire supported by these fuels. The fuel rank is an integrated index of fire behavior characteristics – rate of spread, fireline intensity, heat per unit area, etc. – that are a result of that fuel complex burning under a particular set of weather conditions. The intent is to provide a basic means of stratifying the landscape into areas of moderate, high, and very high hazard as it is related to fire behavior potential. The rankings were determined by using the underlying fuel models in conjunction with the BEHAVE fire behavior prediction system. The various fuel models were then plotted on the fire characteristics chart commonly used to evaluate resistance to control (Rothermal, 1983), where a fuel model's rate of spread is plotted against its heat per unit area. This plot represents fire behavior calculations conducted under severe fire weather conditions, where fires are more likely to escape. The farther the flame front is from the origin, the greater the fire behavior potential, and hence, the greater the resistance to control. As these fuel models only reflect surface fire behavior, additional information regarding crown fire potential and slope was also included in the development of the ranking scheme.

In general terms, only those fuel models where there is a large volume of available fuels (yielding high heat per unit area) and at least a moderate expected rate of spread under severe environmental conditions were given a hazard rank of "Very High." "High" and "Moderate" ranks were assigned to lesser fuel volumes where either heat per unit area or spread rate was expected to be lower. Heavy brush and heavy forest fuel types received "Very High" ranks. Moderate brush, pine/grass, intermediate load conifer, and light logging slash received "High" ranks. Grass and low volume forest types received "Moderate" ranks. The following map exhibits the Hazardous Fuels Rank for the Unit.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Cool
Fair Play
Omo Ranch
Latrobe
Ajkum
River Pines
Fiddletown
Plymouth
Drytown
Volcano
Pioneer
Amador City
Pine Grove
Sutter Creek
Ione
Jackson
Legend
City
Hwy
CDF DPA
Lakes
Fuel Rank
VALUE
Medium
High
Very High
N
W
E
S
Fuel Hazard Map
Amador El Dorado Unit

Weather

Weather conditions dramatically influence fire behavior. Large costly fires are frequently, though not always, associated with severe fire weather conditions. Severe fire weather is typified by high temperatures, low humidity, and strong surface winds.

Severe fire weather is defined using the Fire Weather Index (FWI) developed by the USDA Forest Service Riverside Fire Lab. The FWI combines air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed into a one number score. The FWI gives wildland fire managers an index that indicates relative changes in fire behavior due to the weather (fuel and topography conditions are not included in the calculation). Severe fire weather occurs when the FWI, calculated from the hourly weather measurement, exceeds a predetermined threshold. The threshold FWI is derived from average bad fire weather of (approximately) 95° F, 20% relative humidity, and a 7 mph eye-level wind speed. Frequency of severe fire weather is defined as the percent of time during the budgeted fire season that the weather station records severe fire weather. Individual weather stations are ranked as low, medium, or high frequency of severe fire weather. This ranking can then be applied to the area on the ground represented by the weather station.

Severe Weather Analysis Parameters

FWI CUTOFF	START LOW RANK	START MED RANK	START HIGH RANK
29.725	0%	5%	20%

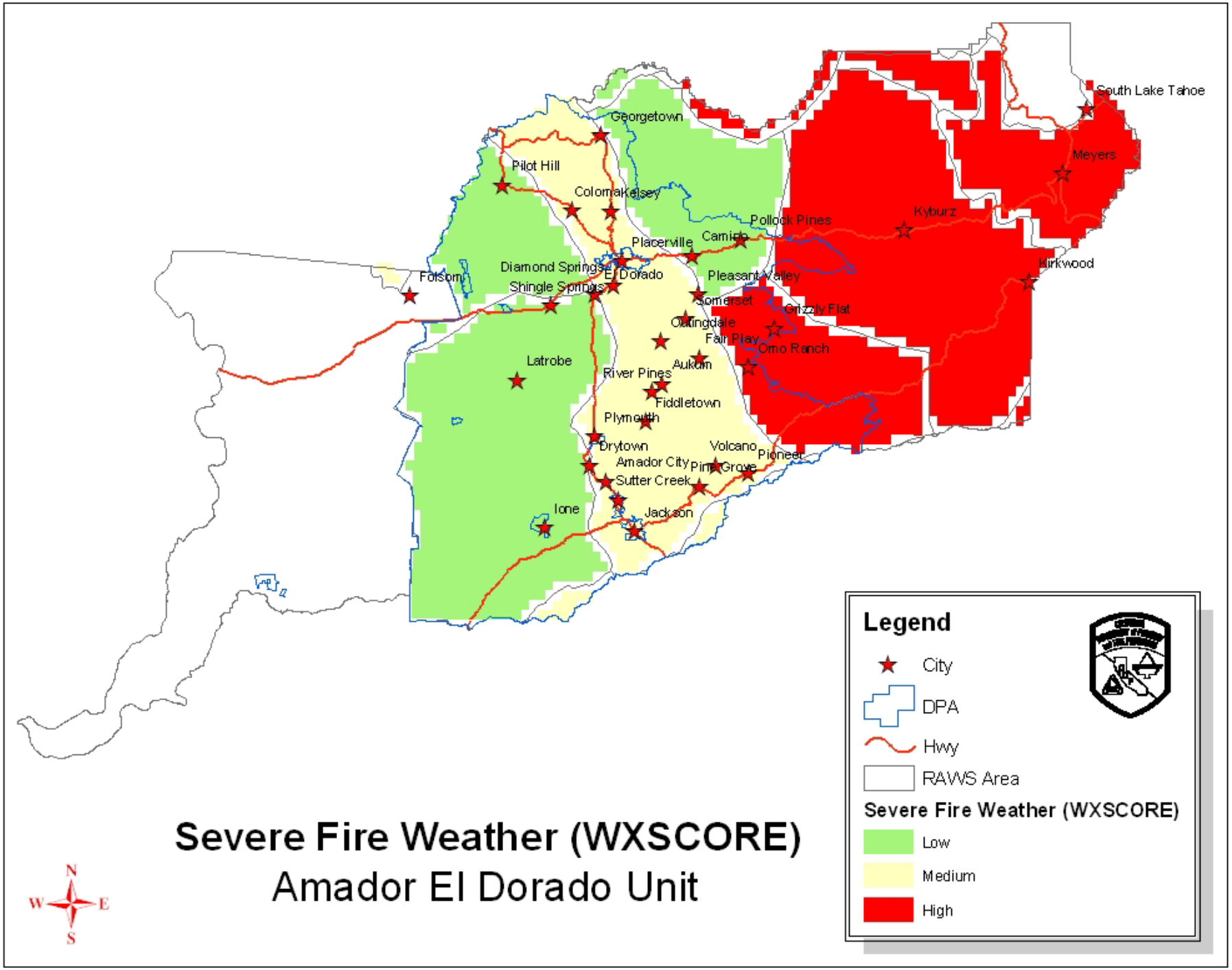
STATION	OWNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION	WXSCORE %	WXRANK
Ben Bolt	CDF	38.6	-120.92	1500	0.22	L
Mt Zion	CDF	38.38	-120.65	2960	0.86	L
Pilot Hill	CDF	38.83	-121.01	1200	0.39	L
Bald Mountain	USFS	38.9	-120.69	4613	0.35	L
Beaver	USFS	38.48	-120.32	5000	12.94	M
Hell Hole	USFS	39.07	-120.41	5240	8.98	M
Owens Camp	USFS	38.73	-120.24	5240	8.92	M

WxSCORE

[SevereWx]/[WxInSeas] The percent of time a weather station is experiencing severe weather. Non-fire season data is thrown out at this point. The assumption is that during winter the fuels aren't ready to burn regardless of the weather. There are exceptions to this, but trying to count every possible contingency would weaken the result we are trying to achieve.

WxRANK

The WxSCORE intensity rating is lumped into three categories to create a severe fire weather frequency ranking.



Severe Fire Weather (WXSCORE)
Amador El Dorado Unit

Level of Service (LOS)

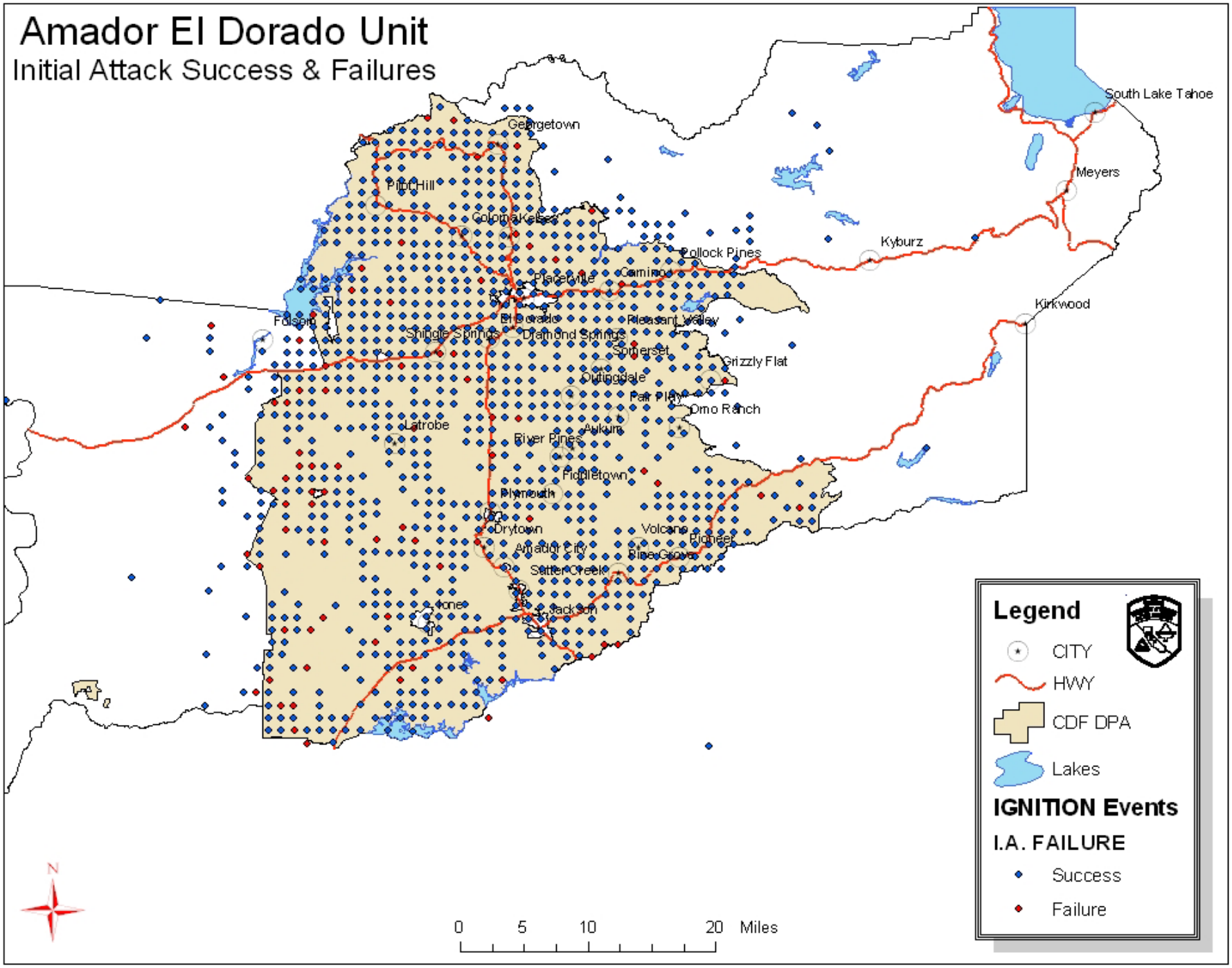
The legislature has charged the BOF and CDF with delivering a fire protection system that provides an equal level of protection to lands of similar type (PRC 4130). To do this, the department has developed an analysis process that defines a level of service rating that can be applied to the wildland areas in California to compare the level of fire protection being provided. The rating is expressed as the percentage of fires that are successfully extinguished during initial attack. Success is defined as those fires that are controlled before unacceptable damage and cost are incurred.
Successful initial attack is defined in terms of the amount of resources needed to suppress the fire and of fire intensity. It is that effort which contains the fire within an acceptable level of resource commitment, acceptable suppression cost and acceptable damage to assets at risk. The FIREPLAN uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) that overlay a 10-year history of wildfires onto a vegetation type map and derives the average annual number of fires by size, severity of burning and assets lost. This data allows a LEVEL OF SERVICE Success (and failure) Rate calculation.

$$\text{SUCCESS RATE} = \frac{\text{Annual number of fires that were small and extinguished by initial attack}}{\text{Total number of fires}}$$

This results in an initial attack success rate in percentage of fires by vegetation type and by area. Similar areas can be compared locally, regionally or statewide using the GIS database. Using the GIS database, each wildland area of a community, CDF Unit, region or statewide, can be ranked by age and type of vegetation to identify high-volume fuel areas that have accumulations of dead fuel with the potential for costly and damaging fires. Areas are ranked by high, medium or low risk of potential as sites of costly and damaging fires.

Amador El Dorado Units initial attack success & failures for 1990 to 2003.

PLANNING BELT	I.A. FAILURE	I.A. SUCCESSES	SUCCESS RATE
BRUSH	36	1473	98%
WOODLAND	24	926	97%
GRASS	77	823	91%
TIMBER	26	498	95%
URBAN OR AGRICLTURE	6	83	93%


Amador El Dorado Unit
Initial Attack Success & Failures
South Lake Tahoe
Georgetown
Meyers
Pilot Hill
Kyburz
Pollock Pines
Placerville
Camino
Kirkwood
Folsom
Shingle Springs
Diamond Springs
Pleasant Valley
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Drytown
Volcano
Pioneer
Amador City
Pine Grove
Sutter Creek
Ione
Jackson
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CITY
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Lakes
IGNITION Events
I.A. FAILURE
Success
Failure
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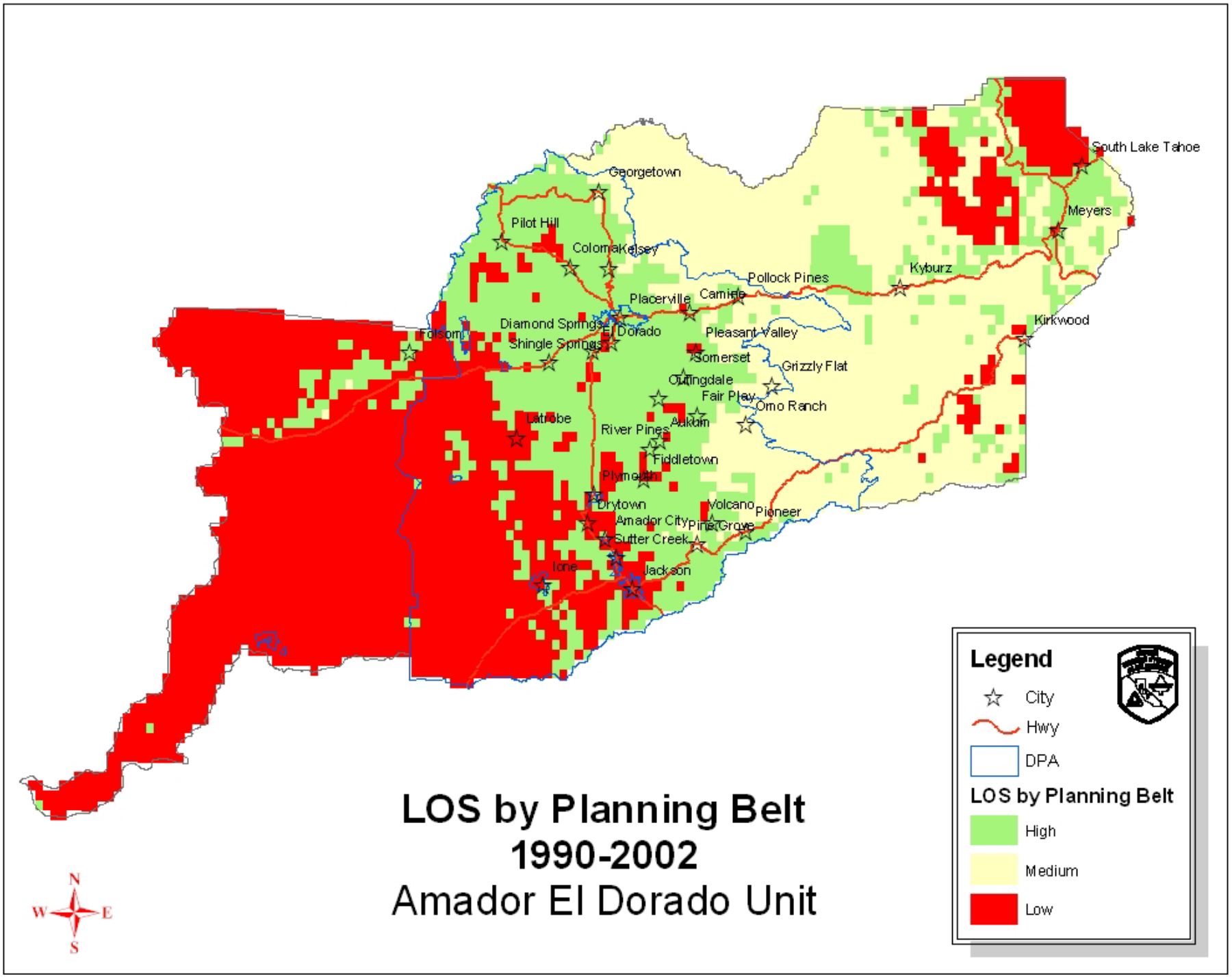
Miles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Cottingdale
Fair Play
Omo Ranch
Latrobe
Aukum
River Pines
Fiddletown
Plymouth
Drytown
Volcano
Pioneer
Amador City
Pine Grove
Sutter Creek
Ione
Jackson
Legend
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Hwy
DPA
LOS by Planning Belt
High
Medium
Low
LOS by Planning Belt
1990-2002
Amador El Dorado Unit
N
W
E
S

Assets at Risk

The primary goal of fire protection in California is to safeguard the wide range of assets found across wildland areas. These assets include life and safety, structures, range, recreation, hydroelectric power, fire-flood watersheds, soil erosion, water storage, water supply, scenic, timber, air quality, historic buildings, non-game wildlife, game wildlife and infrastructure. The table below provides a description of the assets evaluated.

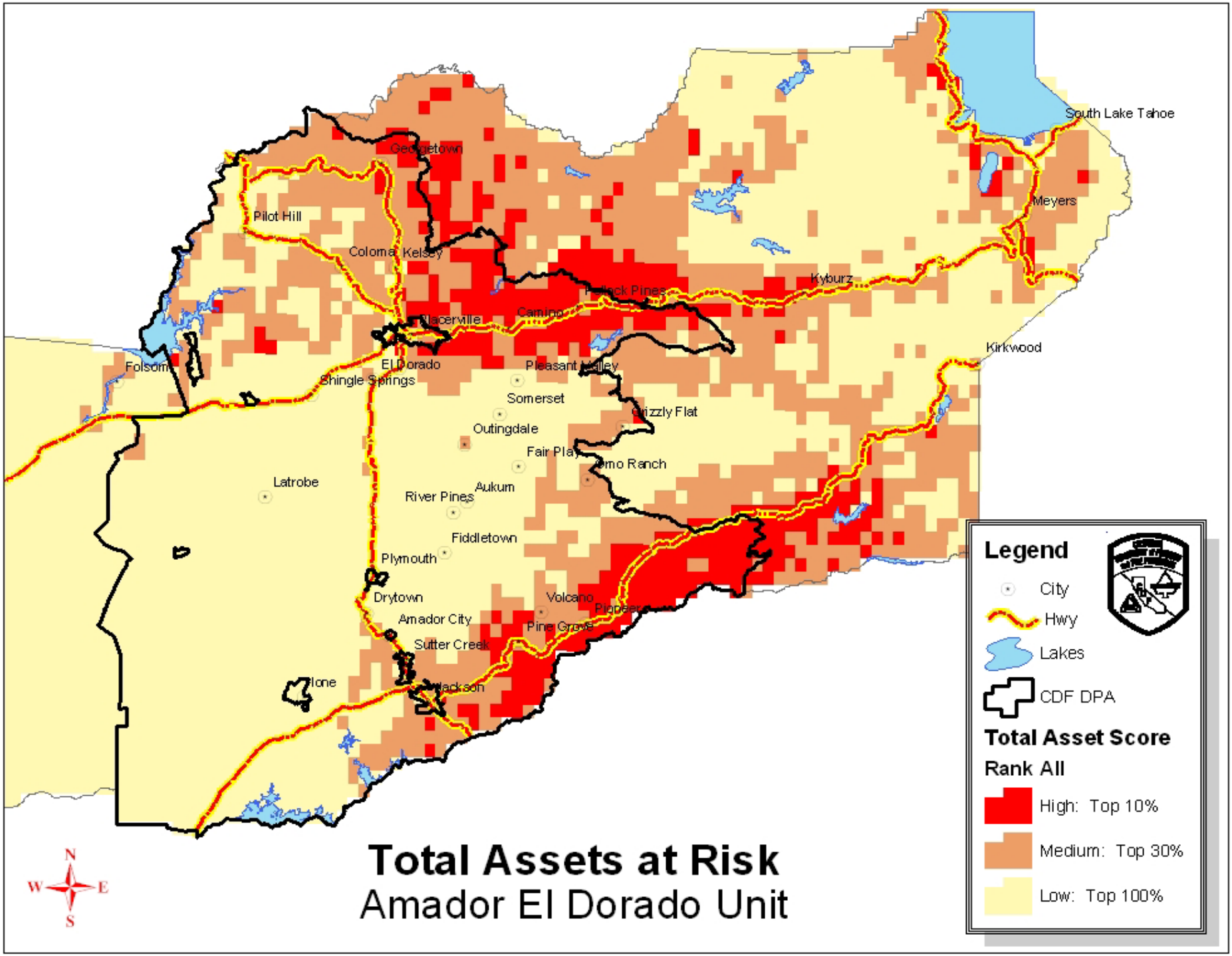
Asset at Risk	Public Issue Category	Location and ranking methodology
Hydroelectric power	Public welfare	1) Watersheds that feed run of the river power plants, ranked based on plant capacity; 2) cells adjacent to reservoir based plants (Low rank); and 3) cells containing canals and flumes (High rank)
Fire-flood watersheds	Public safety Public welfare	Watersheds with a history of problems or proper conditions for future problems, ranked based on affected downstream population
Soil erosion	Environment	Watersheds ranked based on erosion potential
Water storage	Public welfare	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water storage facility, ranked based on water value and dead storage capacity of facility
Water supply	Public health	1) Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water supply facility (High rank); 2) grid cells containing domestic water diversions, ranked based on number of connections; and 3) cells containing ditches that contribute to the water supply system (High rank)
Scenic	Public welfare	Four mile view shed around Scenic Highways and 1/4 mile view shed around Wild and Scenic Rivers, ranked based on potential impacts to vegetation types (tree versus non-tree types)
Timber	Public welfare	Timberlands ranked based on value/susceptibility to damage
Range	Public welfare	Rangeland ranked based on potential replacement feed cost by region/owner/vegetation type
Air quality	Public health Environment Public welfare	Potential damages to health, materials, vegetation, and visibility; ranked based on vegetation type and air basin
Historic buildings	Public welfare	Historic buildings ranked based on fire susceptibility
Recreation	Public welfare	Unique recreation areas or areas with potential damage to facilities, ranked based on fire susceptibility
Structures	Public safety Public welfare	Ranked based on housing density and fire susceptibility

Non-game wildlife	Environment Public welfare	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders
Game wildlife	Public welfare Environment	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders
Infrastructure	Public safety Public welfare	Infrastructure for delivery of emergency and other critical services (e.g. repeater sites, transmission lines)
Ecosystem Health	Environment	Ranking based on vegetation type/fuel characteristics

Knowledge of the types and magnitudes of assets at risk to wildfire, as well as their locations, is critical to fire protection planning. Given the limits on fire protection resources, these resources should be allocated, at least in part, based on the value of the assets at risk. Knowledge of assets at risk is also necessary to choose those prefire management projects, which will provide the greatest benefit for a given amount of investment. For the department, the primary concern regarding prefire projects is the reduction of suppression costs and reducing the fire risk faced by the various assets described here.

Thus, as part of the overall fire plan process, assets were addressed at two levels. First, generalized assets at risk were estimated within the Amador El Dorado Unit to indicate what areas contain highly valued assets. Including the participation of stakeholders of the various assets refined these assessments. The areas with the highest combined asset values and fire risk were considered for prefire management projects, particularly where those projects would protect assets and reduce suppression costs should a fire start in the project area during high fire hazard weather. Second, as potential projects were identified in these areas, they were subjected to an analysis of the degree to which the projects will reduce damage to assets and potential suppression costs.

The process of quantifying the assets at risk also helps to identify who benefits from those assets. It is a desire of the fire plan that those who benefit from the protection of an asset should share in cost for that protection. Thus, asset stakeholders may be expected to provide some financial support for the projects that provide significant benefits to their assets at risk. Many projects may have several stakeholders that will benefit and a cost share formula will be part of the development of such projects. The various assets were mapped for their potential to risk as a result of a costly and damaging fire.


South Lake Tahoe
Georgetown
Meyers
Pilot Hill
Coloma
Kelsey
Kyburz
Placerville
Camino
Kirkwood
Folsom
El Dorado
Shingle Springs
Somerset
Outingdale
Fair Play
Latrobe
Aukum
River Pines
Fiddletown
Plymouth
Drytown
Volcano
Amador City
Pine Grove
Sutter Creek
Ione
Jackson
Legend
City
Hwy
Lakes
CDF DPA
Total Asset Score
Rank All
High: Top 10%
Medium: Top 30%
Low: Top 100%
N
W
E
S
Total Assets at Risk
Amador El Dorado Unit

Prefire Management Division Programs

In addition to the program described below there has been a very successful effort in the Unit to integrate activities within and between traditionally separate programs. In all cases the clerical and administrative staffs in the unit headquarters and camps are a very critical component in the completion of most if not all the tasks that are undertaken. Without a committed and competent staff the best plans can be difficult, if not impossible, to implement. We are fortunate to have such a staff in the Amador El Dorado Unit.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

During the past 10 years, the Unit has treated an average of 1000 acres annually under the Vegetation Management Program (VMP). Currently the Unit has treated approximately 19,469 acres since 1982 to 2002, with an estimated 1500 treated acres by the end of the year. Many of the projects undertaken in the Unit have been within the wildland-urban intermix. Due to the existing land use patterns within the Unit and the increasing population densities in Amador and El Dorado Counties, it is anticipated that the emphasis of the Vegetation Management Program will continue to focus projects within the wildland/urban intermix area. Future projects will concentrate on densely populated areas with high assets at risk. The trend towards more complex projects, with multiple landowners, can be anticipated in future VMP projects.

AEU Pre-Fire Grant Summary

Project Name	Year of App.	Batt.	Value	Status
Sly Park Fire Safe Proj. (El Dorado Prop 204)	1998	1	$265,000	Complete
Shake Ridge/Amador Pines (Amador Prop 204)	1999	3	$150,000	Complete
Sutter Highlands (Fema Haz Mit)	1999	3	$130,000	Complete
Auburn Lake Tr. FSPlan (USFS Planning)	2000	2	$22,000	Active*
Pine Acres FSPlan (USFS Planning)	2000	2	$22,000	Active*
El Dorado Fire Safe Council (Sac. Reg. FSC)	2001	1,2,5	$57,000	Complete
Amador Fire Safe Council (Sac. Reg. FSC)	2001	3,4	$54,000	Complete
El Dorado Fire Safe Council Chipper (Sac. Reg. FSC)	2002	1,2,5	$63,000	Active
Auburn Lake Trails FSP (WUI)	2002	2	$44,088	Active
Pine Acres FSP (WUI)	2002	3	$44,562	Active
Independence Fuel Break (USFS CFIP)	2002	1	$150,000	Active
Auburn Lake Trails FSP (Title III)	2002	2	$10,000	Active
Cameron Park FSP (Title III)	2002	5	$70,000	Active
Cameron Park FSP (WUI)	2003	5	$83,000	Withdrawn
Omo Ranch Extension (WUI)	2003	3	$63,000	Withdrawn
Independence Fuel Break 2 (USFS CFIP)	2003	1	$160,000	Active
Kennedy Mine FSP (WUI)	2003	4	$54,000	Withdrawn
Auburn Lake Trails FSP 2 (Title III)	2003	2	$30,000	Pending
Omo Ranch Extension (Title III)	2003	3	$60,000	Active
Folsom Lake El Dorado Hills (Title III)	2003	1	$60,000	Pending
Cameron Park Fire Safe Project 2 (Title III)	2003	5	$70,000	Pending
Cameron Park FSP 2 (WUI)	2004	5	$95,000	Pending
Auburn Lake Trails 2 (WUI)	2004	2	$85,000	Pending
Pine Acres 2 (WUI)	2004	3	$85,000	Pending
El Dorado Hills Folsom Lake (WUI)	2004	1	$98,000	Pending
Amador County Prop 13/50	2004	3,4	$425,000	Pending
Omo Ranch Extension (WUI)	2005	3	$63,000	Re-Sub
Cameron Park FSP (WUI)	2005	5	$83,000	Re-Sub
Kennedy Mine FSP (WUI)	2005	4	$54,000	Re-Sub

Complete = Project Completed and Grant Closed
Active = Project Active, Funds Available
Active* = Project Complete, Awaiting Reimbursement from Grantor
Pending = Awaiting Approval
Withdrawn = Funds Previously Awarded, Later Withdrawn from Grantor
Re-Sub = Re-Submission of Withdrawn Applications

Total Approved Grant Funding for Project Work $1.2 Million
Pending Grant Approval $948,000

Projects by Battalion

Battalion 1

Sly Park Fire Safe Project – Fire safe project that includes the collaborative efforts of CDF, El Dorado Irrigation District, the El Dorado Resource Conservation District, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Sierra Pacific Industries, and small private landowners. The project is primarily a fuels treatment project that prescribes the establishment of a shaded fuel break between Park Creek Road and Sly Park Reservoir with the utilization of broadcast burning as well as hand treatment by CDF fire crews. The community around the shaded fuel break area was given the opportunity to participate in the project through their direct inclusion in the fuel break work. Landowners were allowed to participate in the Sly Park Fire Safe Project VMP by including their residential parcels in the fuel break. Those landowners that are situated along the border of the Sly Park Recreation Area were the primary target for inclusion.

The surrounding community was given opportunities to participate through community chipping programs. CDF purchased a chipper and staffed community chipping crews during the months prior to fire season. Seasonal firefighters and a limited term engineer were hired to travel selected subdivisions and chip materials generated from fire safe clearance work. Enhanced LE-38 inspections were conducted approximately two to three weeks prior to chipping to give landowners time to complete the work recommended during the inspections.

The entire project described above was funded through a $265,000 Proposition 204 Watershed Protection Grant proposal that was awarded to CDF in 1998. The proposal was conducted over a four year period and allowed CDF to hire a Fire Captain, Grant Coordinator to manage the day to day operations of the project work.

The fuel break project is considered complete however continued maintenance is required to ensure the project remains in place. Maintenance will require some minor fire crew work and understory burning. Sly Park Fire Safe Project is currently covered by a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a VMP that will expire June 2005.

Folsom Lake/El Dorado Hills Fire Safe Project – Fire safe project that includes the collaborative efforts of CDF, El Dorado Hills Fire Department, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. The proposed project includes the establishment of a defensible fuels zone at the boundary of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and the private parcels that have homes. The intent is to provide defensible fuel zones that start at structures on private lands and extend approximately 100-300 feet into the Folsom State Recreation Area. The predominate strategy will be to construct shaded fuel break

to provide protection to fire personnel and the community in the event of wildfire originating within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

An additional component will be an emphasis on the continued property inspection program that is currently conducted by El Dorado Hills Fire Department. To enhance this program the cooperators will work towards community chipping programs to provide disposal alternatives for materials generated during clearance work around structures. This will be conducted through the cooperation of the El Dorado Fire Safe Council and the local Fire Safe Council that is currently under development. The community is and will always be a significant force with the implementation of this project.

Currently CDF has submitted several applications for funding. The first application was through the Western States WUI grant process that is administered through CDF. The proposal was for $98,400 and the Unit is still awaiting word on funding.

An additional application was submitted to the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council for access to Title III funds. The application is for $60,000 and tentative approval has been given for funding. Project work will commence during the fall of 2003 immediately following environmental review by State and Federal agencies. CDF has committed at least one fire crew to the project. All project activities will be covered under the State VMP Program.

Independence Fuel Break – Federal and state shaded fuel break project for the protection of the Pollock Pines area. This project is a collaborative effort to treat federal lands while creating an opportunity to treat SRA lands that are land locked between the Federal lands. The El Dorado National Forest has been conducting thinning and prescribed fire operations on the Independence Fuel Break as a high priority for their new fuels management strategy. CDF was approached by the USFS to assist in project implementation for the private lands that lie within the federal lands project. The federal agencies are unable to directly conduct work on private lands; however they are able to provide funding sources.

CDF chose to utilize the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) for project implementation. CFIP provides the statutory framework to conduct the type of work required to fulfill the project objectives and has an excellent mechanism to manage the administration of the project work. CFIP is currently an unfunded program however there is the ability to move Federal grant funds through the CFIP program.

The Unit has been awarded two National Fire Plan Grants to fund project work through the use of the CFIP program. The grants total $212,000 which is administered through the already in place CFIP mechanism. Project specific on-the-ground coordination of the project work is being conducted by a retired CDF Forester funded by the grant.

Prairie City OHV VMP - AEU has a long history of conducting prescribed fire projects for the study and control of noxious weeds on State Park Property. CDF is currently in the planning phases of conducting spring prescribed fire activities in conjunction with live fire training. The project will be covered under the State VMP Program.

Battalion 2

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Project – Fire safe project that includes the collaborative efforts of the Amador-El Dorado Unit, Nevada Yuba Placer Unit, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Auburn Lake Trails Property Owner's Association. Auburn Lake Trails subdivision is situated at the rim of the American River canyon at the edge of the lake that would have been formed by the Auburn Dam. Exclusion of fire and the heavy public use below the subdivision create a very hazardous situation with respect to the potential for ignition. The topography, the fuels, and the significant numbers of homes create a combination of factors that will cause significant resource damage as well as a major risk to life safety of the community.

The primary strategy is to establish defensible fuels zones around and within the subdivision. CDF fire crews will conduct VMP project work on federal lands adjoining the subdivision. Private land owners will be asked to participate in the VMP so fuels reduction will continue on the private lands between homes and the federal lands project area. The property owner's association retains control of all the common area within the subdivision and is the primary partner with the Auburn Lake Trails VMP. Currently CDF has treated approximately 100 acres of federal and private lands.

The Unit was awarded a $22,000 planning grant for a comprehensive fire safe plan, biomass utilization plan, and community emergency evacuation plan. CDF contracted with Gene Murphy of Cameron Park to complete the work. The project is complete and the fire safe plan, as well as the other documents that are a part of the project, have been distributed to the community of Auburn Lake Trails.

Funding for thin project has come from several sources. The Unit was successful in acquiring $44,000 of Federal funds through the Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant (WUI). The Unit was also successful is securing $40,000 of Title III funding form the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. The WUI funds will be directed to private lands work and the Title III funds will be for project wide implementation.

Coloma VMP – CDF and the Department of Parks and Recreation are attempting to develop a prescribed fire project for the Coloma Historical Park along the American River. The primary objective is to use prescribed fire and fire crew pre-treatment to create a fuels reduction zone around the park area. There are

significant historical resources and structures at risk of destruction from wildfire. This project is still in the planning phases.

Battalion 3

Omo Ranch Fuel Break – CDF, Sierra Pacific Industries, the USFS, El Dorado National Forest and small non-industrial landowners are working collaboratively to establish a defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in El Dorado County. The project begins at Highway 88 and progresses west to Road E16 near Mt. Aukum. The primary purpose of the project is to utilize fire crew support along with prescribed fire to establish a defensible fuel zone for fire fighting operations and to protect the interface communities of the area. The community of Omo Ranch is a sparsely populated area in southern El Dorado County that is relatively isolated from resources in the event of a large wildfire event.

CDF, Sierra pacific Industries, and the USFS have completed approximately one third of the project and will begin work on the middle third of the zone during the fall of 2003. All of the work is conducted by CDF is covered by a mitigated negative declaration and a VMP contract. All work on the National Forest lands was completed by the USFS.

Funding for this project has traditionally been funded through the Unit's Pre-Fire Program as a standard VMP. Recently CDF was awarded $60,000 of Title III funds by the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to conduct work on the middle third of the project, especially around the Indian Diggin's Elementary School. Amador-El Dorado started on the Garibaldi segment of the defensible fuel zone in July of 2003.

Amador El Dorado was also awarded a WUI Grant for the amount of $63,000 but was later withdrawn by the Federal Government. Amador-El Dorado will re-submit the proposal in the fall of 2003.

Shake Ridge/Antelope Fuel Break – CDF, the USFS, El Dorado National Forest, Sierra Pacific Industries, Amador Resource Conservation District, Amador Fire Safe Council, and numerous homeowners collaborated to implement a comprehensive fire safe project near the Amador Pines subdivision. The project includes prescribed fire, fire crew pre/post prescribed fire treatments, road side clearance work, door yard chipping, mastication, tree thinning, and enhanced LE-38 inspections. The primary objective of the project is to establish defensible fuel zones around the community near Amador Pines and provide assistance with fire safe clearances. All work on this project was completed with a mitigated negative declaration and VMP.

The entire project described above was funded through a $150,000 Proposition 204 Watershed Protection Grant proposal that was awarded to CDF in 1999. The

proposal was conducted over a four year period and allowed CDF to hire a Fire Captain, Grant Coordinator to manage the day to day operations of the project work.

CDF is currently in the process of securing additional funding for this project to extend the defensible fuel zones down Shake Ridge Road towards Volcano. The collaborators above have submitted a grant proposal in the amount of $1.3 million to the State Water Quality Control Board for Proposition 13/50 watershed improvement funds. The portion of the grant dedicated to this project is approximately $300,000.

Pine Acres Fire Safe Project – The Pine Acres Fire Safe Project is an attempt to establish a defensible fuel zone between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon. All of the fuels reduction work is being conducted by CDF fire crews on private property bordering the subdivision and on the Mt. Zion State Forest.

Funding for the project is currently being provided by a WUI Grant in the amount of $44,000. Amador-El Dorado has submitted a follow up WUI grant for $85,000 and is awaiting word of funding. CDF is currently in the process of securing additional funding for this project. Amador-El Dorado and the same collaborators as indicated for the Shake Ridge project submitted a grant proposal in the amount of $1.3 million to the State Water Quality Control Board for Proposition 13/50 watershed improvement funds. The portion of the grant dedicated to this project is approximately $100,000.

The Unit was awarded a $22,000 planning grant for a comprehensive fire safe plan, biomass utilization plan, and community emergency evacuation plan. CDF contracted with a consultant to complete the work. The project is complete and the fire safe plan, as well as the other documents that are a part of the project, have been distributed to the community of Pine Acres.

Sutter Highlands Fire Safe Project – CDF with the cooperation of the Sutter Highlands homeowners and the Amador Resource Conservation District conducted roadside fuels reduction for the Sutter Highlands community above Sutter Creek. A significant number of homeowners participated in the VMP by allowing CDF fire crews to conduct roadside fuels clearance of evacuation routes and general fuels reduction in areas of high priority.

The funding for this project was secured from a Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of $130,000. Two years of work has been completed and future funding has not been secured to continue the project. Pre-Fire and battalion staff is currently assessing the future of this project.

Battalion 4

Cosumnes River Preserve – CDF, The Nature Conservancy, and private land owners are cooperating to maintain vernal pool habitat with the utilization of prescribed fire. CDF with the participation of the Nature Conservancy, Sacramento City Fire Department, and Sacramento Metro Fire utilize this VMP project as a pre fire season live fire training exercise. The project consists of approximately 500 acres of vernal pool and oak woodlands burning every year. Battalion and Pre-Fire staff are currently working towards a long term management plan for the entire 12,000 acre project area.

HFEO Academy Training VMPs – The CDF Fire Training Academy in Ione annually conducts the Heavy Fire Equipment Operator class which includes the use of 10-18 bulldozers of varying sizes. Amador-El Dorado provides the locations where the ten day practical field training for the class is conducted. Typically the Unit makes every attempt to locate willing land owners that own property is strategic topographic locations and are willing to allow CDF to operate dozers. Landowners are typically livestock ranchers so there is a mutual benefit through range improvement for the landowners. All of the dozer work is typically completed in the spring and the resulting piles created by the training are burned by Amador-El Dorado the following fall. Ranchers are strongly encouraged to artificially seed following the treatment of the vegetation.

Battalion 5 Cameron Park Fire Department

The most common complaint received by the Cameron Park Fire Department from the public is about their concern for protection from a wildfire emergency. An analysis of emergency incidents in the local area supports the public perception that the greatest threat to the community may be from a destructive wildfire similar in nature to the fire that occurred in the Oakland Hills in 1990. The Oakland Hills fire burned less than 3 square miles (1600 acres) and destroyed 2,900 homes in one day.

The Cameron Park Fire Department in Cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection therefore proposes to implement a project in the Community of Cameron Park with a long term goal of establishing a "Fire Safe" community. The enormous scope of the problem necessitates that it be approached by a coalition of public and private stakeholders including but not limited to: 1) Fire Department officials, 2) El Dorado County government and agency officials, 3) Community Services District officials, 4) utility company representatives, 4) environmental groups, 5) insurance industry representatives, 6) real estate industry representatives, 7) homeowners associations, 8) large land owners, and 9) general public.

The project must be comprehensive enough to address the entire wildland-urban interface problem in the district from small strips of flammable vegetation along roadside easements, to large tracts of undeveloped brush covered lands. No timeframes have yet been established for the completion of this project. Progress will be dependant upon the cooperation and initiative of the stakeholders, and the success in securing project funding through grants or other sources. Three critical element areas have been identified for the project.

Project Elements

Planning

- Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau
- Cameron Park Fire Safe Council
- Fire Safe Development Plans – PRC 4290
- Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
- Community Hazard and Risk Assessment

Fuel Reduction:

- Residential Lot Clearing Requirements – PRC 4291
- Vacant Lot Clearing Requirements – H&S 14875 - 14922
- Chipper Program
- Vegetation Management Program
- Fire Resistive Planting Program
- Curbside Landscaping

Public Education:

- Volunteers in Prevention
- Public Displays
- Demonstration Lots
- Web Page
- Public Recognition
- Hazard Awareness

Planning Element Description

Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau – The Cameron Park Fire Department will establish a Fire Safe Bureau to coordinate the districts' efforts towards minimizing costs and losses associated with wildfire emergencies. The Fire Safe Bureau will be located at Cameron Park Fire Station 88. All of the personnel permanently assigned to Station 88 will be members of the Fire Safe Bureau. The Fire Safe Bureau will work with the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council to implement the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project. Establishing a Fire Safe Bureau will re-focus the efforts and priorities of 25% of the fire department personnel and resources directly on the wildland-urban interface problem.

Cameron Park Fire Safe Council – A fire safe council will be established in the community to build a partnership between the fire department and the community for addressing the local wildfire hazard. The fire safe council will be a coalition of public and private sector stakeholders including community leaders, residents, business persons, government agencies, the fire department, and other groups and associations committed to developing a "Fire Safe" community in Cameron Park. The Fire Safe Council will meet monthly. One member of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council will represent the community at the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. An active Fire Safe council will be one of the critical elements for project success.

Fire Safe Development Plans (PRC 4290) – A Fire Safe Plan will be prepared and submitted with project applications for new construction and development in the community. The Fire Safe Plan will provide for emergency vehicle access and perimeter wildfire protection measures. Elements of the fire safe plan include standards for road and street networks, water supply standards, building construction, and fuel modification and defensible space.

Cameron Park Wildfire Preplan – A preplan for managing wildfire emergencies in and around the community will be developed. The preplan will incorporate information developed in the Fire Safe Plan to improve chances for initial attack success in the event of a wildfire emergency. Fuel breaks, water supplies, evacuation routes, staging areas, resource needs, strategies and tactics, etc. will be developed for a variety of wildfire scenarios. The pre-plan will be distributed to local firefighters for training and made available to the public for educational

purposes.

Community Hazard and Risk Assessment – A hazard and risk assessment will be done for the entire community. The hazard and risk assessment will quantify the threat to persons and property in the community from a wildfire emergency. Factors such as fuel, topography, land use and types of building construction will be considered. The hazard and risk assessment will be a critical planning tool for directing the efforts of the Fire Safe Bureau.

Fuel Reduction Element Description

Residential Lot Clearing Requirements (PRC 4291) – Based on the community hazard and risk assessment, residents will be required to establish defensible space around the structures on their lots, under the authority of Public Resource Code § 4291. PRC 4291 requires removal of flammable vegetation for a minimum of 30 feet, and up to 100, feet around structures. Fire department personnel and volunteers will make initial inspections. Failure to comply may result in a misdemeanor citation.

Vacant Lot Clearing Requirements (H&S 14875 – 14922) – Based on the community hazard and risk assessment, vacant lots will be required to remove flammable vegetation under the authority of the fire district's weed abatement ordinance. The weed abatement ordinance was established in 1999, by the Board of Directors, under the authority of Health and Safety Code § 14875. Fire department personnel and volunteers will make initial inspections. Failure to comply may result in the fire department contracting for the abatement work and a lien on the property.

Chipper Program – The district will seek funds to establish a chipper program to support the residential and vacant lot clearing efforts. A chipper program will provide a cost effective alternative and incentive for property owners to cooperate with the district's fuel reduction efforts. A commercial chipper and tow vehicle will be required. Chips can be scattered in place on the property owner's lot, stored in a central location for redistribution, or used as a groundcover in road easements or other areas.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP) – Large lots and open tracts of land threatening many structures may qualify for the Vegetation Management Program administered by CDF. A contract between the property owners and CDF authorizes the State to perform fuel reduction work through a cost sharing agreement. Qualification and priorities for utilizing a VMP program will be based on the community hazard and risk assessment.

Fire Resistive Plants – Ornamental trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that are fire resistive and perform well in the local soil and weather conditions will be identified. Property owners will be encouraged to replace native flammable vegetation with fire resistive ornamental plants. Sponsoring nurseries will be sought to offer discounted plants for this program. Cost matching grant funds will be sought to further reduce the costs to the property owner.

Curbside Landscaping – The district will work with the County Department of Transportation to identify guidelines for property owners desiring to landscape road easements fronting their properties.

Public Education Element Description

Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) – The district will establish Volunteers in Prevention program to assist with administration of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project and with public education. The VIP program is administered by CDF. VIP's may be utilized for a variety of fire prevention activities including office support, inspections, and public education programs.

Demonstration Lots – "Demonstration Lots" will be established around the district featuring two types of fire safe landscaping. One type will demonstrate how to thin and prune native vegetation (primarily oak woodland) to reduce its fire danger potential. The other type will include fire resistive ornamental plants that can be used to replace or enhance native plant species.

Public Displays – Public education materials will be displayed at community events attended by the fire department and/or the Fire Safe Council.

Web Page – The district's web page will be updated to provide a complete overview of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project.

Public Recognition – Streets and neighborhoods in the district will be recognized for achieving "Fire Safe" status. "Fire Safe" status will be granted when the street or neighborhood meets guidelines for fire safety established by the Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau. Recognition may be in the form of local press releases, listing on the district's web page, and/or neighborhood or street signs.

Hazard Awareness and Prevention – Public education materials will be developed to heighten the awareness of the community towards the dangers of a wildfire emergency, and to educate the public on the efforts to reduce the hazard. Materials may include maps and information of the fire history in the local area; history of catastrophic wildfires in the state; methods for fuel reduction and fire resistive landscaping; methods for creating defensible space around structures; methods for preventing the ignition of a wildland fire; and/or a mock newscast of a catastrophic wildfire in the community to present the reality of the danger.

Amador El Dorado Unit Fire Safe Councils

Fire Safe Council (FSC) development and funding has been extremely active within the Unit. At last count, at least five formal Fire Safe Councils have been established in administratively logical locations. Much of the Pre-Fire's effort has been in the identification of adequate funding sources for continued momentum with the successes already achieved. Each Fire Safe Council has emerged through differing methods to fit the needs of the communities. The heightened awareness that has developed as a result of this increased community awareness has spawned numerous community groups that work with the FSCs to secure funding and share ideas about wildfire prevention.

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

AEU Pre-Fire staff submitted a $56,000 grant proposal through the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program in August of 2001. AEU was successful is securing funding for the proposal and worked with the Georgetown Divide Resources Conservation District to begin the work of assembling the organizations and individuals necessary to make the group successful. A significant step forward was the hiring of a paid coordinator with grant funds and reaching the non-profit status of a 501(c) 3 corporation. These two steps have given the El Dorado County FSC the boost that is necessary to assure continued success.

AEU made every effort to encourage the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to allocate a significant portion of the HR 2389, Title III funds to the FSC for project implementation. To the credit of the BOS and with the help of the FSC members, they agreed with our recommendation. Currently approximately $1.4 million has been allocated for project work in El Dorado County. AEU and cooperating partners have been directly awarded $200,000 of Title III funding from the El Dorado Fire Safe Council for project work. Typically cooperators utilize Title III funds as hard match for other grant proposals. The project proposals range from direct fuels reduction to education to just about anything one can imagine. Each community comes to the FSC with proposals that fit the needs of the community.

The El Dorado FSC has secured an additional grant for $63,000 to establish a pilot program for a community access chipper program. AEU Pre-Fire staff prepared the grant proposal with the help of the El Dorado FSC and the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District. The project has been very successful with the hiring of a chipper program coordinator and the establishment of a community chipper program. The FSC has selected a contractor to perform the services free of charge to the residents of El Dorado County. Donations for the service are requested and returned to the program. Based upon the success of the pilot chipper program, the El Dorado FSC has chosen to allocate adequate funding to continue the project indefinitely.

Funding for FSC project work has come from private grantors as well. AEU Pre-Fire staff was successful in securing $5,000 from Pacific Gas and Electric for a "Safe Tree" mailer for the county of El Dorado. An educational flyer with fire prevention information and power line safety will be distributed with El Dorado Irrigation District utility billings.

AEU is a technical advisor for the El Dorado FSC and will continue to assist the Council with some of the guidance that is required from time to time. AEU will continue to forward funding proposals as funds hold out.

Amador Fire Safe Council

The Amador Fire Safe Council was started in the same fashion as the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. AEU submitted an identical grant for Amador County during the same time period. The efforts and results have been the same. A FSC Coordinator has been hired and non-profit corporation status is in place. The Amador County Board of Supervisors has allocated Title III funds to the FSC to insure the community based effort is successful. The FSC is currently developing funding proposals to leverage Title III funds for future fire safe planning efforts and fuels reduction projects.

Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council

In March 2001 AEU staff in the Tahoe Basin submitted a grant proposal in the amount of $72,000 to the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program and was awarded those funds to establish a California side FSC for the Tahoe Basin. AEU was successful with the proposal and initial FSC development is under way. The FSC administrator has been appointed to tend to acquiring non-profit corporation status as well as the day to day business of the council. The FSC has several grant proposals submitted to continue with administrative and operational project implementation in the amount of $153,000.

Alpine County Fire Safe Council

Alpine County was awarded a grant proposal through the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program in 2001 to support the development of a county FSC. The FSC is currently under development in Alpine County. The Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has allocated funds to the FSC in the form of Title II funds. AEU has been providing technical assistance with the development of this FSC.

Cameron Park Fire Safe Council

As a result of the outstanding success of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, the community of Cameron Park has chosen to form a FSC to specifically address some the unique challenges that face residents of Cameron Park. AEU Pre-Fire staff, the AEU operational Schedule "A" Battalion Chief, CDF operational staff, and the Cameron Park Fire Department have assisted residents of the community

in the formation of a formal Fire Safe Council. With the award of Title III funds in the amount of $70,000 from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council has been able to implement a comprehensive fire prevention and vegetation management strategy for the residents of the community. Cameron Park has chosen not to seek non-profit status and will continue to utilize the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council as a funding platform for future grant opportunities. A brief description of their efforts can be found under the Pre-Fire Management Division heading of this report.

El Dorado Hills, Auburn lake Trails, & Other

The communities of El Dorado Hills and Auburn Lake Trails are currently making attempts to form Fire Safe Councils/Groups similar to that of Cameron Park. Many of the communities in El Dorado have very different sets of problems that need attention. The local approach will ensure that issues related to specific communities are addressed in a manor appropriate to their objectives. Several other communities are following suit with the Cameron Park model for their own communities.

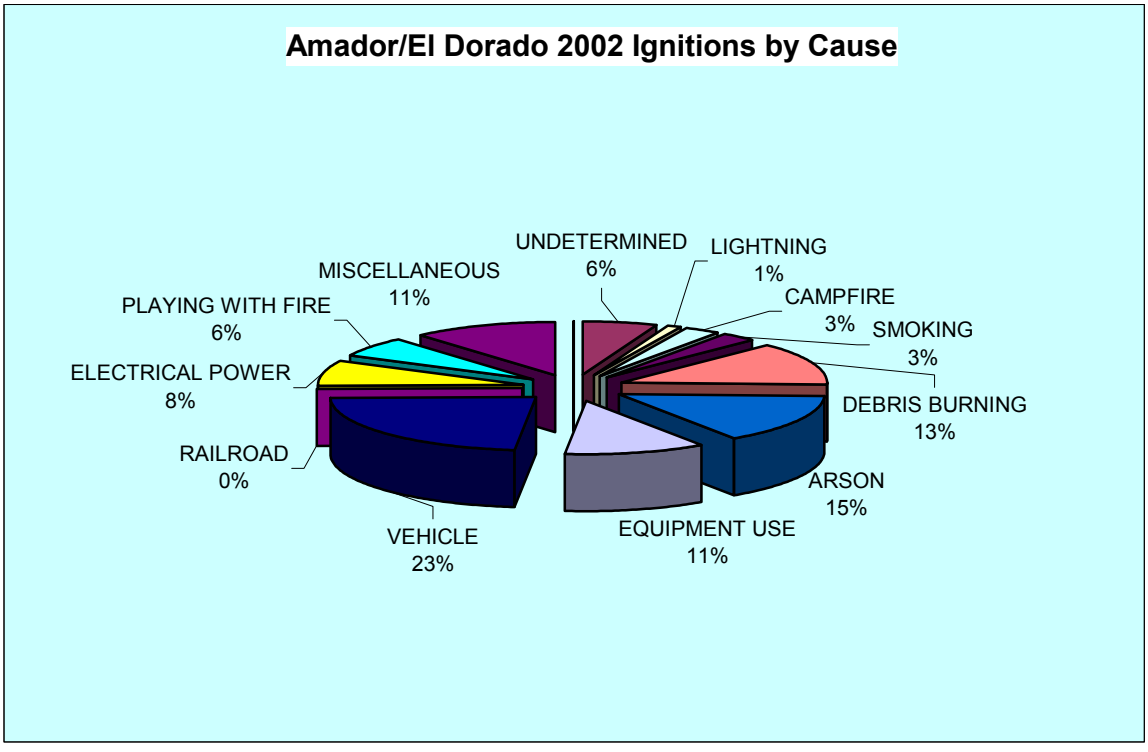
All of the groups that are forming as a result of the new fire prevention enthusiasm in El Dorado County will continue to be an integral part of the El Dorado County Fire safe Council. Representatives form the well organized communities typically has representation on the El Dorado Fire Safe Council Board of Directors. They are the critical connection to the community and the outreach arms of the council. The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council will be the primary venue for the sharing of ideas and the non-profit funding platform for future grant opportunities.

Fire Prevention

The 2002 fire season in the Unit started May 13th and lasted until November 10th. The Unit experienced 311 fires within its Direct Protection Area (DPA) during that period. This number represents an 8% decrease from the 2001 season, and a 1% decrease over the 7-year average. Though the season was not that active compared to the 7-year average, acreage and dollar losses were relatively high.

One large fire in El Dorado County caused by children and matches during a minor wind event accounted for approx. 63% ($1,012,000.00) of all our dollar losses and 30% (775) of all acreage lost. A large fire in Amador County caused by electrical equipment accounted for approx. 13% ($208,245.00) of the dollar loss and 28% (720) of acreage loss in the unit. Approximately 2,546 acres burned in 2002 compared with the 7-year average of 2,862. Damage from fires was estimated at $1,599,980 compared to a 7-year average figure of $915,324. The main significant change in the last 7 years and especially the 2002 fire season has been that increased growth and recreation in the Unit has caused a steady increase in equipment use and vehicle caused fires.

In reviewing fire causes during the 2002 season, it was found that the four leading causes of fires in the Unit were 1) vehicle, 2) arson, 3) debris burning, and 4) equipment use. These accounted for 65% of all fires that occurred. These were followed in order by: miscellaneous, electrical power, playing with fire, undetermined, campfire, smoking, lightning, and railroad. Fire occurrences on the increase from the 7-year average were arson, vehicle, playing with fire, electrical power, and misc. with all others on the decrease. Ignitions causing the most acreage loss were playing with fire at 782, electrical power at 730, arson at



487, vehicle at 301 and equipment use at 143. All other causes were less than 100 acres each.

In order to better address ignition management for the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

1. Motor vehicle use, accounted for 75 fires or 24% of the total. This represents a 51% increase from the 7-year average. This category has been one of the leading causes of fires in the Unit for the past several years. The majority of these fires occurred along the major traffic corridors and Hwy 49, 50, and 88. Thirty-five percent of the vegetation fires caused by motor vehicles were related to a vehicle fire, 31% were exhaust/converter related, most of the remainder were mechanical or accident caused. Historically, this cause has produced large damaging fires throughout the Unit.

2. The second leading cause of fires in 2002 was Arson, which caused 49 fires or 16% of the total in 2002. The unit was hit hard this year with several arsonists. In one 18-hour period we had 17 confirmed arson fires. A large portion of the arson fires was in the MTZ between Sacramento County and us. In a joint venture between Sacramento Metro Fire and CDF, the arsonist was arrested, tried, and received two years in State prison. Besides watching numerous suspects, four other felony arson arrests were made. These five arrested suspects accounted for over 41% of all our arson fires this year.

3. The third-leading cause of fires in 2002 was debris burning at 42 fires or 13% of the total fires. This cause saw a 22% decrease from the 7-year average. Even though this is a 21% increase over last years historic low, we believe the elimination of debris burning during the declared fire season months of July –October has substantially limited the number and severity of these fires. The high percentage is partly due to the increased growth in the county coupled with their lack of knowledge with the dangers of burning. All fire departments in Amador and El Dorado County are assisting us in handing out legal notices (LE-38's) on all debris caused fires. These legal notices serve to educate the public and put them on notice that their next escape will result in a citation. The highest casual agent for escape is the lack of adequate clearance around the burning operations.

4. The forth-leading cause of fires in 2002 was equipment use at 35 fires or 11% of the total fires. This represents a 44% decrease from the 7-year average. Historically this classification has been one of the top leading causes of wildfires in the Unit. Equipment use and debris burning were heavily targeted this year and with continuing posters, displays, and education we hope to continue this downward trend. In reviewing the

specific causes within this classification, approximately 51% are due to the misuse of mowers and weed eaters. Over 89% of the mower & weed eater caused fires were due to the mower blade striking rocks or exhausts igniting chaff collecting around it. Ironically, most of the weed eater and mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear property for fire safety.

5. Miscellaneous causes accounted for 37 fires. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes placed in wildland, interior fires like wiring, flue fires, cooking fires, fireworks, and electrical wiring on the user side of the meter.

6. Electrical power caused 25 fires. Though this is a 40% increase from the 7-year average, only three of these were the result of a PRC violation. Branches falling from trees and contacting the power lines caused Forty percent 40% of these fires. The biggest problems we noticed is that even though the trees are being pruned to required distance from lines, PG&E crews are not always pruning vertically leaving a tunnel effect of the trees growing over the power lines.

7. Playing with fire caused 19 reported fires and 5 unreported in 2002, which is 26% above the 7-year average. This year in general the juveniles were a little older, 9-12 year old range, could recite all fire safe education they received but, just lacked parent supervision in one aspect or another. The last couple of years we have a concern over the growing number of seriously disturbed/molested juveniles that we are the initial contact for. Due to the above concerns CDF and County Fire Prevention personnel are establishing a county wide JFS protocol to evaluate, educate, and obtain assistance for these juvenile's. It also to be noted we conducted 17 additional Juvenile Fire Setter interviews referred to us by El Dorado County Fire and El Dorado County Probation Departments.

8. There were 19 undetermined fires in 2002, which is 55% below the five-year average of 42.

9. There were three Lighting caused fires in the unit burning a combined total of six acres of vegetation.

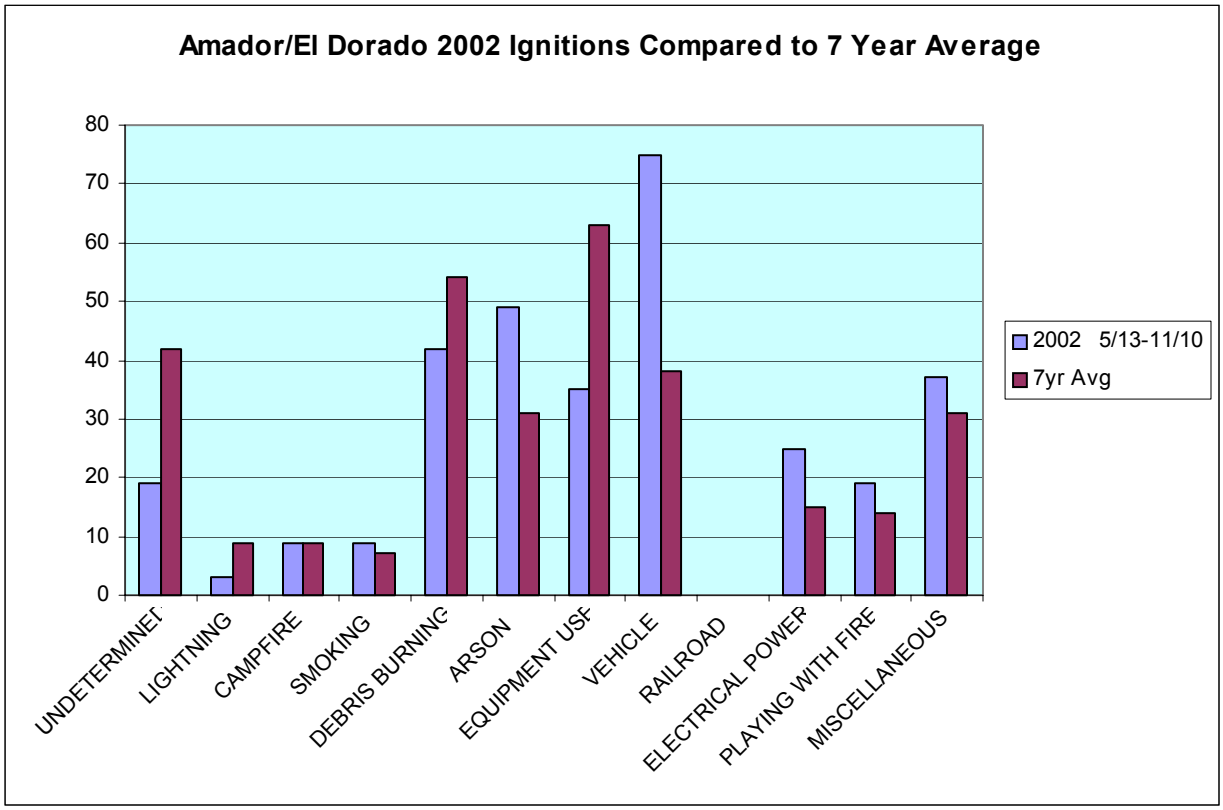
10. Illegal campfires and campfire escapes caused 9 fires. Five of these fires were solely illegal campfires or campfires left unattended from young adults camping on private property, 3 were from the careless dumping of BBQ ashes in the wildland. Campfire caused fires burned only 1acre of vegetation.

11. Smoking caused 9 fires. Eight were caused by carelessness in the discarding of their cigarette. One was due to smoking in a motor home,

which burned to the ground causing a wildland fire.

12. The final category, Railroad did not cause any fires in 2002.

The following chart compares the 2002 primary causes compared to the 7-year average.



2003 Proposed Projects

The ignition management projects proposed for 2003 focus primarily on preventable ignitions that have seen an increase in recent years or historically have produced large damaging fires in targeted areas of the Unit. These projects dovetail with the Unit's Fire Plan projects in both ignition reduction and loss mitigation. These projects are in addition to various other fire prevention projects and programs routinely carried out each year. These routine activities include fire safe maintenance inspections, school team teaching, fire investigation and follow up, fire prevention, public education, etc.

Nine focused ignition management projects have been identified for 2003. These are outlined in the chart below in their order of priority. Priorities were set based on potential for resource/property loss, ignition preventability, prior historical data, and recent trends. Included in the chart is a general time frame for

implementation. A discussion of each follows the chart.

PRIORITY	PROJECT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION*	TIME FRAME
1	Arson Elimination	Targeted	Task Force	B 11, 12, 14	Fire Season
2	4th of July Patrols	Targeted	Patrol	B.11, 12, 14	7/1 to 7/10
3	Burn Permit Administration	Targeted	Enforcement	Unit	4/1 to 11/15
4	Small Equipment Inspection	Targeted	Inspection	Unit	5/1 to 7/1
5	Public Education	Indirect	Education	A&E Fairs	2002
6	Campground Inspections	Targeted	Inspection	B. 11, 12	5/1 to 7/1
7	PG&E Contractor Inspection	Targeted	Inspection.	Unit	6/1 to 7/1
8	Power line Inspections	Maint.	Inspection	B.11,12,14	Fire Season
9	Holiday, Red Flag, Lighting	Targeted	Patrol	Unit	Fire Season

*B = Battalion

1. **Arson Elimination** – Especially battalions 11, 12, &14. Last year the majority of the arson fires were in these battalions. As was stated earlier a large portion of these fires were started with portions of grocery bags being lit and thrown out of a vehicle. We have descriptions of the vehicle and possible suspects that we will be watching more closely this year. Other activities include VIP's for high visible patrol, detailed fire activity investigation and monitoring, and select law enforcement activities. The area contains a large urban interface, critical watershed; valuable scenic view sheds along the South Fork of the American River and Highway 49 corridor. The VIP's began patrolling 4 years ago, in the Union Mine area, on a schedule set by staff to cover time frames of past arson activity. There are usually 3 to 6, two-person teams patrolling in uniform with magnetic signs on their vehicles. They are in radio contact with each other and have direct access to ECC if necessary. They have also been used to stop arson activity in an area until a CDF Investigative Team can be brought into the area.

2. **Fourth of July Patrols** – Jackson and Ione areas in Amador County and the Cameron Park area in El Dorado County. These areas have seen a gradual increase of fire activity associated with the misuse of fireworks

during the 4th of July period. Due to the large population base in Jackson and Cameron Park, the potential of property loss is high in this area. Activities include public education through media services, sign posting, red flag patrols using VIPs, and CDF law enforcement patrols.

3. **Burn Permit Administration** – Unit-wide. The Unit continues to experience a high percentage of debris burn escapes and illegal debris burn responses. These occur throughout the Unit and have the potential for high property loss. This year a cooperative program with all Amador/El Dorado Fire Agencies involved was set in place where-by burning violators were given at least a LE-38 notice of violation & education on burning requirements. Citations were issued for the most serious of these incidents and no illegal burning is dealt with administratively anymore. All LE-38 are sent to dispatch to be monitored through the tri-tech system creating a database by address.

4. **Small Equipment Inspections** – The Unit experiences a high percentage of equipment caused fires, many of which are from small equipment used to achieve fire safe clearances around homes. Equipment use has historically caused large damaging fires in the unit. This activity involves inspections of industrial operations and rental yards, and a stepped-up public education program through the media.

5. **Public Education** – The Fire Prevention Bureau does multiple public education programs in the Unit and in Sacramento County. They range from Earth Day, County Fairs, and Fall Festivals to Safety Day at the State Capitol. The fire prevention message changes depending on the time of year, existing fire problems in an area, and audience attending the event. The staff also covers activities involving homeowners associations, schools, civic clubs, church groups, and mass media contacts throughout the year. This year we hosted a 3-day Juvenile Firesetters Prevention & Intervention Workshop and are working with the County Fire Departments on standardization when working with juveniles.

6. **Campground Inspections** – The South & Middle Forks of the American and Cosumes Rivers contain numerous private campgrounds that cater to swimmers, rafters, and campers. Though few fires have come out of these areas fire inspections continue to increase public education, increase the potential for reduced losses, as well as create a safer environment for fire fighting.

7. **PG&E Contractor Inspection** – Prior to declared fire season on a yearly basis this project will focus on PRC compliance inspections on all PG&E contractor's equipment. Also it is used as an information gathering and a question and answer period for all parties. CDF law enforcement has also been used to assist PG&E in the enforcement of PRC violations on private

property when warranted.

8. **Power line Inspections** – In the past the Unit's power line inspection program has focused on the largest utility, PG&E. Since then, ignitions from that utility have decreased dramatically. Utilities caused fires have been a source for large damaging fires in the past. This project will focus on PRC compliance inspections in the Pollock Pines and Georgetown Divide areas where the majority of these fires have occurred. We have worked closely with SMUD on their transmission lines that run through the unit. We have an informal agreement on a 3-year plan to clean under their transmission lines in high hazard areas from Cameron Park to Camino.

9. **Holiday ham radio patrols** - (Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day weekends) are used annually in both Amador and El Dorado Counties. The high visibility teams drive in areas impacted by groups of people to discourage the improper use of fire or fireworks. This has been a very effective tool during these busy weekends.

    a. Red flag patrols are used when red flag conditions occur. The ham radio operator's team up and patrol throughout the Unit. They are an extra set of eyes and ears for CDF. They also educate the public about red flag conditions and the threat that a wildfire poses.

    b. Lightning patrols have been called when lightning storms are expected. The ham radio patrols can be up and patrolling within 30 minutes of a request. Again, they are an extra set of eyes for CDF.

Volunteers in Prevention

The AEU VIP Program assists the Unit in Fire Prevention Education Activities. The VIPs support the Headquarters office and fire stations (office assistants), school programs, public education events (fairs, displays and patrols), fire information centers on a planned or immediate need basis. The VIPs are active year round in Amador, El Dorado, Alpine and Sacramento Counties.

Juvenile Fire Setters - Standardizing protocol for Unit including a companion database, and assessment and education of approximately 30+ JFS this year

Volunteers-In-Prevention (VIPs) - Roster of 105 VIP's, Office assistance, fairs/exhibits (Amador and El Dorado County Fairs, WAW, Kids Expo, Harvest Fair, Safety Fairs, Labor Day/Memorial Day/July 4th Celebrations, Jackson Duck Races, Sutter-Amador Health Fair) and various appearances at local civic and community groups), school programs (Amador, El Dorado, and Sacramento), patrols (holiday, arson, red flag, lightning), fire information center assistants, unpaid runners, traffic control on VMPs

- Coordinated Unit training for Fire Information Officer
- Coordinated "Living with Fire" presentation for County Fire Prevention Officers
- Set-up various annual training for VIP's

Resources Management Forest Practice: West Slope

Exemptions

Area Foresters enforce the California Forest Practice Rules, which govern the conduct of timber harvesting on all private lands. Assembly Bill 49 provided for timber harvesting to provide a fire safe area within a 150 feet radius from an approved structure. This activity is exempt from the preparation and submittal requirements of the Timber Harvest Plan. Ladder fuels and thinning of trees are allowed under this exemption with a requirement that all slash be treated within 45 days. This activity is encouraged to further the intent of PRC 4290.

The less than three acre Conversion Exemption was designed for landowners who wish to convert their timberland to another use, the majority of the time the land is converted to a home site. The conversion requires that 100% of the slash be removed; these strict slash removal requirements were designed to minimize fuels in and around residences.

Other exemptions are permitted to remove dead and dying timber in smaller amounts.

Timber Harvesting Plans (THP)

Timber Harvest Plans "THP's" are required to go through a multi-agency environmental review and most require a pre-harvest inspection to determine whether potential environmental impacts are adequately mitigated prior to harvest activities. The potential for creating or reducing fire hazards from timber harvesting is evaluated during the THP review. In Amador-El Dorado Unit, Area foresters contact the Battalion Chiefs in whose district the harvesting will occur and solicit their input on THPs that pose potential fire hazards. Any concerns the Battalion Chiefs and Area Foresters have with regard to reducing the fire hazard will be incorporated into the THP as additional mitigations. Foresters preparing a THP must show how the proposed harvest will meet maximum sustained production of wood products. Demonstrating maximum sustained production includes addressing the health and productivity of the residual stand. Fuels treatments are considered in this process, fire resilience is a key component of a healthy and productive stand.

Occupied residences and public and private roads are required to comply with the Forest Practice rules that address hazard reduction. Additionally where logging occurs in and adjacent to subdivisions and residential developments the Area Forester may required that the THP include slash treatments above and beyond the requirements of the Forest Practice Rules.

THP's that are submitted in and adjacent to shaded fuelbreaks are required to treat the trees and ground fuels in a manner consistent with shaded fuel break objectives . The Forest Practice rules allow consulting Foresters to reduce stocking to levels lower than that allowed in the general forest in order to create a more open, fire resistant stand of trees. Fuelbreaks such as the Omo Ranch shaded fuelbreak in El Dorado County cross over Federal lands, industrial timberlands and non-industrial ownership and fuels treatments are consistent over all ownerships.

While logging is active on THP's the Area Forester will make compliance inspections to ensure that the loggers have the required fire fighting tools and equipment on site. Loggers are also required to leave all logging roads passable at the end of each work day.

The Region Office builds and maintains a GIS database of all THP's; this database is provided to the Area Foresters on an annual basis. The THP database is a valuable tool that could be used in identifying recently logged areas that may require different firefighting strategies.

Service Forestry

The Area Foresters are also required to provide forestry advice upon request, to private landowners. This advice includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for fuels management and fire safe activities that can be applied to residents. Many times service forestry calls are related to bark beetle activity in pine trees. Landowners are encouraged to immediately remove the bark beetle killed trees and treat the slash.

Cost Share Programs

Both federal and state cost share programs exist to assist private timberland owners in the management of their lands. The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) has recently been funded to aid non-industrial timberland owners in managing their lands. Many of the cost share practices such as site preparation, timber stand thinning, pruning, and chemical release aid in managing and reducing fuel loading on non-industrial timberlands.

Resources Management Forest Practice: East Slope/Lake Tahoe

THPs/Exemptions

A number of agencies, most notably the Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board (WQ) and The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), closely scrutinize THPs in the Tahoe Basin. Forest health is paramount to maintaining the water quality of Lake Tahoe, and efforts to prevent loss by wildfire and other pathogens drive the planning and preparation of THPs in the Tahoe Basin. Field recommendations by CDF staff regarding slash treatment and silvicultural treatments are thoroughly discussed and recommendations are developed, which furthers the goals of the Prefire Management Plan.

The Board of Forestry recognized the necessity to reduce the barriers to private owners and adopted the Tahoe Exemption (14CCR section 1038(f)) which facilitates the removal of dead and dying trees in the basin. This exemption assists land managers in improving the overall health of the forest and in reducing an extremely hazardous buildup of dead forest fuels.

California Tahoe Conservancy

The Department has an interagency agreement with the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), whereby CDF offers forestry advice, prepares and implements THPs, Exemptions and vegetation management projects on CTC property. CDF works closely with the CTC Urban Land Management Program on hazard fuel reduction projects within the urban intermix. CDF also works with the CTC Forest Habitat Enhancement Program on fuel reduction, forest health and wildlife habitat enhancement projects in urban interface and general forest areas.

Service Forestry

TRPA requires a Tree Removal Permit to be issued for every green tree (six inches or greater, diameter at breast height) that is to be harvested from private, state and federally owned property. The objective of the program is to encourage the thinning of overstocked stands and the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. In addition to improving the health of the urbanized forest, fuels available to a wildfire are substantially reduced. The general marking guidelines currently applied by the Tahoe ReGreen Project were adopted from those historically in use by the area foresters in AEU, NYP and the Nevada Division of Forestry and Nevada State Lands.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CDF and TRPA was established in the 1980's to better serve the public and facilitate the tree removal

process. CDF area foresters, at the request of the individual landowner, inspected, marked and issued the Tree Removal Permit. No permit fee was charged to the landowner for this service.

Due to funding problems, CDF discontinued their role in the TRPA tree removal permit process in 2002. TRPA now charges California residents a $50 permit fee for a TRPA forester to provide this service.

Federal and state cost share programs have funded vegetation management plans and activities on City of South Lake Tahoe property and the Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District.

Tahoe ReGreen Project

This project was organized under the incident command system in 1995 to address the Basin-wide need to treat the growing amount of tree mortality due to the local bark beetle infestation. Thirty-three public and private agencies/organizations from Nevada and California joined the effort to modify the available fuels. The local fire protection districts identified priority areas, and activities were concentrated within these areas by the land management agencies (USFS, CTC, Nevada Division of Forestry and California Department of Parks and Recreation).

Where a intermix of urban lot sized ownership exists, the ownership is primarily CTC and USFS. The USFS has identified federal forestlands adjacent to subdivisions, within the urban/wildland interface, as a high priority for treatment and are defined as "Defensible Fuels Profile Zones," or shaded fuel breaks. The CTC conducts fuel reduction projects within their Urban Land Management Program.

Funding for the Tahoe ReGreen Project was provided by the CDF Forest Resource Improvement Fund. The project lost this funding in 2001. The ReGreen Incident Managers met at that time and decided to transform the project into a Fire Safe Council.

Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council

In 2002, CDF received BLM grant money from the Sacramento Regional Foundation to start a Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council. The grant funded a fire safe council administrator as an employee of the Tahoe Resource Conservation District. The Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council is presently soliciting members and project proposals, and working toward acquiring non-profit status.

Forest Health Consensus Group

This group was formed ten years ago (October 1993) to gather input from all segments of the Basin population and advise the TRPA of any suggested changes to the Regional Plan regarding the forest ecosystem. The mission statement of the group is as follows:

1. Define the desired future conditions of the ecosystem.

2. Develop an ecosystem management strategy that provides guidance for attaining the desired future conditions identified by the Consensus Group.

3. Recommend an on-going system for monitoring and evaluating the condition of the forest ecosystem and the long-term effectiveness of the management strategies and adopting them to new information and changing conditions.

The Basin was organized into management intensity zones with the intent to achieve the mission statement for each of these zones. Progress reportable in the first mission statement is a document referred to as the "Green Sheet," which describes the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) in a general way as "Pre-European Settlement Conditions"; with the understanding that urbanization has irrevocably modified many of these conditions. The general description strongly encourages re-introduction of prescribed fire into as many of these ecosystems as possible and as soon as possible.

In 2001, the group abandoned the consensus concept and became the Forest Planning Advisory Group. This group is made up of forest management professionals from around the lake. The focus of the group is to advise TRPA on issues regarding fire hazard reduction, defensible space and forest management.